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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-206
Friday
23 October 1992

Daily Report
East Asia

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Meeting on AFTA Opens in Philippines

HK2210122392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 22 Oct 92

[By Rexie Reyes]

[Text] Manila, Oct 22 (AFP)—Thailand pledged full support here Thursday for the creation of a free-trade area in ASEAN after Bangkok's internal problems delayed a crucial meeting on the plan's implementation. Thailand committed itself as economic ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations began a two-day meeting to beat a January 1 deadline to kick off a tariff reduction plan leading to an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 15 years.

The scheduled meeting on Wednesday [21 October] of the AFTA Council, which was supposed to set guidelines for the tariff slashing plan, had been postponed because the newly-formed Thai government had yet to formulate its trade policies. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak arrived here Thursday to join the ministerial meeting. He told journalists his mission was "to help AFTA progress as far as possible" and "implement it at the moment we have agreed upon and to proceed as expediently as possible."

Philippine President Fidel Ramos, opening the ministerial meeting, stressed AFTA's urgency but warned that any regional system must dovetail with global arrangements under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "We should not be caught off-guard. Free trade arrangements are being undertaken in other parts of the world to create greater competitive advantage. ASEAN should therefore know how to play the game and win," he said. Ramos dismissed as a "fallacy" the view that AFTA was just a reaction to the emerging trade blocs in the European Community and North America, saying it was a "pragmatic" plan formulated for its own merits.

But with less than nine weeks to go before the AFTA launch date, Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said "there is much work to be done at the official and private sector level." "We cannot afford for AFTA to be a non-starter simply because we allow bureaucratic constraints to hamper our efficient functioning," she added.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, whose export-driven economies could be seriously threatened if global trade broke up into protectionist regions. The ASEAN plan calls for slashing tariffs on manufactured and processed agricultural products traded within the region to a maximum 20 percent in five to eight years, and five percent by the end of the 15th year in 2008. Fifteen product lines ranging from vegetable oils to electronics would be included in an accelerated tariff cutting program starting on January 1.

But some of the ASEAN members were being lobbied by domestic industries to defer tariff liberalization for certain "sensitive" sub-categories of the 15 products, prompting members to propose "exclusion" lists.

Suphachai said there were "no problems" on the implementation of AFTA as far as Thailand was concerned, "only a misunderstanding about Thailand's cooperation, and we intend to give our best cooperation". The Thai deputy prime minister asked for some understanding from the economic ministers that they may not be able to decide on some matters completely, "not because we want to back out of this arrangement", but because the new government has not laid down fully its economic policies.

Aziz said she was "personally disappointed" by the AFTA Council meeting's postponement and said "not only ample political will but also economic wisdom and maturity" were needed for AFTA to take off on time. "I don't know what Thailand's problem is, probably internal, but, whatever it is, no country within the ASEAN should allow internal problems to supersede the overall ASEAN interest and I'm sure Thailand is fully aware of that." "My only hope is that they solve their internal problems very quickly and not hold up the AFTA-CEPT implementation," Aziz said.

The CEPT or Common Effective Preferential Tariff system is the schedule of tariff reductions implementing the AFTA program.

Philippine President Urges Competitive ASEAN

HK2310055592 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 Oct 92 p 1

[Report by Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday said the Association of Southeast Asian Nations should strengthen itself so it can effectively compete with the free trade blocs in North America and Europe.

In a speech at the opening of the 24th ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting at the Manila Hotel, Ramos said free trade arrangements are being pursued elsewhere to create greater competitive advantage.

"ASEAN should therefore know how to play the game and win," Ramos said.

The President said ASEAN "should not be caught off-guard" by the signing of a free trade pact among the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and the 12-member European Community.

The region's economic ministers, he said, should closely monitor, analyze, and take appropriate action on the growing rapport between Japan and China, and between China and Taiwan.

"In both situations, economic pragmatism, not political factors, appear to be the leading consideration... Events in the world compel us to urgency in this work of binding our economies closer together," the President said.

But the President said the creation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area should not be regarded as a substitute for multilateral trade and that ASEAN should push for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"The success of the Uruguay Round will bring an end to the fallacy of seeing AFTA as merely a countervailing force against the European Community or NAFTA or any other bloc," he said.

Saying AFTA "should be pursued because of its own merits," the President said the agreement will not only widen intra-ASEAN trade and industrial integration and harmony but will also lead to healthy competition among Asean's production sectors.

The President said for ASEAN to avail of opportunities in the world market, it should:

—Build a stronger base for interdependence, as a single country will not stand up to the complexities and competitiveness of the world economy.

—Continually enhance its attractiveness to foreign investment.

—Continue building up its industrial infrastructure.

—Nurture intermediate and supporting industries to convert processed primary products;

—Promote small and medium enterprises.

—Develop service industries particularly in management, finance, and information.

—Invest intensively in the development of its human resources.

Thailand's ASEAN Position Criticized

BK2310060392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Oct 92 p 22

[Text] Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz issued a veiled criticism yesterday of Thailand's Internal conflict over the handline of trade barrier removals under the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA].

In her opening address as outgoing chairman of the ASEAN economic ministers, she told the group's 24th annual meeting that the bureaucratic wrangling could hold up the creation of regional free trade and hinted that she considered the Thai internal conflict to be unwise and immature. But shortly after she spoke, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchphak, who arrived in Manila midday yesterday, made clear that Thailand was ready to yield to the wishes of the rest of ASEAN on the controversial question of how AFTA should be administered.

Particularly contentious has been Thailand's argument that the ministerial AFTA Council should be high-powered, independent and report only to the ASEAN heads of government. The rest of ASEAN holds that the council should be low-powered and technical, and report to the ASEAN economic ministers.

In the Thai bureaucracy, the Commerce Ministry advocates a low-powered AFTA Council reporting to economic ministers, while the Foreign and Finance ministries prefer an independent and powerful AFTA Council, an idea that was also proposed by former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and his special adviser, Narongchai Akrasani, president of GF Finance and Securities Company.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos, who presided over yesterday's opening ceremony also appeared to endorse the majority ASEAN view when he told the economic ministers from the six ASEAN countries: "I do not underestimate the magnitude of the job before you over these next few months. But you the economic ministers have been put in charge, because you are known to regard situations in terms not of problems but of solutions." He concluded: "It is you the economic ministers, with your quiet work and our expertise, who shall bring our countries to the condition of sustained prosperity to which we all aspire."

Dr Suphachai, who heads the Thai delegation, said upon his arrival at Ninoy Aquino International Airport that the question of the AFTA Council reporting to heads of government was not the policy of the new government.

"I consider this to be (the policy) of the previous government," he told the BANGKOK POST. He then began a round of informal discussions to assure ASEAN that Thailand would press ahead with AFTA now that the new government has been formally installed and its policy is on the verge of approval.

"We are ready to sit down and make policy decisions with (ASEAN's economic ministers)", he told reporters after a lunch meeting of heads of delegations. Dr Suphachai said that Thailand was willing to accept the wishes of the rest of ASEAN on AFTA's administrative structure. His mission, he said, "is to make AFTA progress as much as possible. Thailand will not be foot-dragging".

On Wednesday evening Deputy Commerce Minister Paitun Kaewthong said Thailand would not obstruct ASEAN on any issue that the other five agree on. That was the first time that any Thai minister had hinted that Thailand might be willing to drop its position on the AFTA Council's status.

In her speech to the 500 delegates and guests at the opening ceremony, Rafidah said: "There is much work to be done at the official and private sector levels. We cannot afford for AFTA to be a non-starter simply because we allow bureaucratic constraints to hamper our efficient functioning. For the AFTA to succeed, ASEAN needs not only ample political will, but also economic wisdom and maturity. Let it not be said of ASEAN that 'the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'"

She did not name anyone, but her comments were immediately interpreted in many delegations as a criticism of the debate within the Thai bureaucracy and between Thailand and the rest of ASEAN about the most appropriate way of administering AFTA. Later, she made clear to reporters that she had been referring to Thailand. Speaking after a lunch meeting of the economic ministers, she said she did not know what the problems in Thailand were but that they could be interpreted as bureaucratic. She said that no country should allow its internal bureaucratic problems to supersede the interests of ASEAN. She said she was sure Thailand was fully aware that the concern was shared by other ASEAN members.

Rafidah has now handed over leadership of the ASEAN economic ministers to her Philippine counterpart, Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro. This is under the rotating system where the host country of the annual meetings chairs the ministers' group for the year. She is also chairwoman of the AFTA council and will similarly hand leadership over to a Philippine minister when the council eventually meets, perhaps within two or three weeks according to Philippine officials.

The outspoken Malaysian minister read from her own hand-written text, with specially underlined passages. She did thank Thailand's initiative in the creation of AFTA, and she called for strong commitments to regional free trade.

"We can choose to either fallback at the roadside...or we can, with 25 years experience behind us, move ahead and commit ourselves to ensuring that the work programmes before us are operationalised...," she said.

President Ramos also called on the meeting to direct ASEAN members towards economic cooperation at full speed. The economic ministers are playing a crucial role in bringing all six countries of ASEAN—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—to the prosperity that every member is looking forward to, he said in his four-page speech.

"We can do it. Let us do it!," he urged.

Mr Ramos suggested ASEAN countries should prepare themselves for intensifying competition in the global market by strengthening a base for interdependence among the members, enhancing the attractiveness for foreign investment, and improving infrastructure to increase the growth of processing industries.

"We should not be caught off guard. Free Trade arrangements are being undertaken in other parts of the world to create greater competitive advantage. ASEAN should therefore know how to play the game and win," he said. But, he added, the creation of AFTA should not be seen as an alternative to trade negotiations that encompass all international traders. He recommended that ASEAN develop intermediate and supporting industries to convert processed primary products to service regional and international industries, back small and medium traders under a more liberal and open environment, improve service industries and invest more in the improvement of human resources.

The setting-up of the AFTA would be a main factor in the group's integration and strengthen its position in the world economy, he said. He added that ASEAN also has to restructure to give more power to its secretariat in order to have the body take more actions more rapidly and effectively. He added that the institutional reforms that ASEAN has begun this year should ensure a continuing healthy relationship with the rest of the world, particularly ASEAN's dialogue partners and other regional groupings.

"We all need each other for our survival," he said.

Mr Ramos also pointed out that despite the emergence of the AFTA, the success of talks in the Uruguay Round and the strengthening of the freer trade system of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) should be given the first priority by ASEAN in order to move the world towards a more liberal economic system.

"The success of the Uruguay Round will bring an end to the fallacy of seeing AFTA as merely a countervailing force against the European Community or NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) or any other bloc," he said. "AFTA should be pursued because of its own economic merits."

He saw enormous potential rewards in what he described as the rise of an East Asian economic bloc comparable to those of Europe and North America by the year 2000.

"Let us closely monitor, analyse and take action on the growing rapport between Japan and China, and between China and Taiwan. In both situations, economic pragmatism and not political factors, appear to be the leading consideration.

Thailand Tries To Allay Fears of Protectionism

BK2310033192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Oct 92 p 13

[Text] Thai ministers, strengthened by the approaching end of the policy debate in Parliament, made first moves yesterday to allay ASEAN's fears that Thailand was procrastinating over the introduction of regional free trade.

In public, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, who arrived in Manila midday yesterday to lead the Thai delegation, made some of the strongest statements yet committing Thailand to working with ASEAN to set up an effective administrative structure for the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), and one that would be acceptable to all. Behind the scenes, officials were busily sifting through documents setting out Thailand's proposed schedule for tariff cuts and lists of products that could be excluded from the initial phase of AFTA.

Thailand's proposals so far have been described as the most protectionist in ASEAN, with seven entire sectors withdrawn from the list of 15 "fast track" sectors whose accelerated tariff reductions would lead to rates of 0-5 percent within seven to ten years instead of the 15-year timetable of AFTA. Dr Suphachai promised that Thailand's offer would eventually be at least as liberal as any other ASEAN country's, although he added that the new Government has not been in office long enough to develop a proposal that could be agreed this week.

With the ASEAN economic ministers due to tackle key AFTA issues today Thai officials were understood to be preparing a new proposal. Thailand would now propose to put all 15 sectors on the "fast track", but would propose excluding some of the many products within those sectors, a procedure most other ASEAN countries have adopted. Because the Thai Government has not had enough time to study the details and make firm commitments, the new proposal would be submitted as an "indicative list" that would be completed in a few weeks.

Of the 15 "fast-track sectors" agreed by ASEAN's heads of government at their summit in Singapore in January Thailand had proposed cement, fertiliser, leather products, pulp, textiles gems and jewellery, electrical goods and wooden furniture. Other ASEAN countries added electronic goods and rattan furniture to the last two sectors, and also proposed vegetable oils, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, rubber products, ceramics and glass, and copper cathodes. In its initial list of sectors to be excluded from fast track liberalisation, Thailand is understood to have named all the sectors it did not originally propose.

At his press conference, Dr Suphachai emphasised four points.

—He denied that the ASEAN meetings were being held up because Thailand was procrastinating. The main reason was the "sheer coincidence" that the new Government faced its policy debate in Parliament on the same day ASEAN had decided to convene a meeting of the AFTA Council, the ministerial committee set up to administer the lowering of trade barriers under the AFTA programme.

—He denied that Thailand had ever asked for a postponement of items concerning AFTA on the agenda of yesterday's and today's meetings of ASEAN economic ministers.

—Thailand would not be obstructive in its belief that the AFTA Council should be an independent body reporting directly to the ASEAN heads of government and not to the ASEAN economic ministers. This would be discussed with fellow-ASEAN members in order to reach the most efficient administrative structure, he said. Dr Suphachai said the new Thai Government's position would have to emerge from those discussions.

"We do not have to stick to whatever has been put forward by the previous Thai Government," he told reporters. The argument that the AFTA Council should be independent was adopted by the Anan Governments but was not shared by other ASEAN members.

—Thailand would submit a new proposal for lowering its own tariffs, including a more liberal list of "fast track" tariff cuts and the fulfillment of Mr Anan's pledge in Singapore to unilaterally cut on January 1 all tariffs currently above 30 percent to a maximum of 30 percent for goods imported from other ASEAN countries.

Dr Suphachai did indicate, however that Thailand might not do this on all goods, but exempt some. He said he had not yet seen the list that the Finance Ministry had prepared because he had not had enough time, having only been appointed to handle ASEAN trade negotiations last week.

"The principle will be there, the commitment will be there," he said. But the details would have to go back to the Thai Cabinet for consideration. He urged other ASEAN countries to understand the need for consultation in Thailand's coalition system of government.

Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Rizalino Navarro, who also attended the press conference, said there was still time to "refine" proposals before the postponed AFTA Council meeting is reconvened to consider the technical details of the tariff reductions. At that time, Mr Navarro said, details could be revealed to the press.

Dr Suphachai said these four point were being announced to counter feelings that have grown in the past few days that Thailand is the most protectionist country in ASEAN because its tariff barriers are the highest in the group, and that it was seeking to delay AFTA.

"There has been some news of us becoming more protectionist. There is not a grain of truth in that," he said.

During yesterday, he repeatedly called for understanding from other ASEAN countries for Thailand's inability to submit complete proposals.

"Maybe I have to ask for some understanding that because we are just (appointed) in Thailand, some things may not be 100 percent completed. Only that, but not because we want to back out of the arrangement. No, no. We are all in favour of AFTA," he told reporters.

ASEAN Chamber of Commerce Head Views AFTA

BK2310041192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Oct 92 p B12

[Report on interview with Chokchai Aksaranan, chairman of the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry, by NATION reporters Thanong Khanthong and Chirawat Na Thalang in Manila—date not given]

[Text] As president of the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chokchai Aksaranan adds to his international profile a role that is crucial to the working of the regional free trade area.

He has come to Manila, the venue of this year's annual meeting of the ASEAN economic ministers, with a proposal aimed at reducing the confusion over the manner with which the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are to create a regional free trade area.

The enforcement of AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area] cannot be successful without private sector participation. And for the first time, the ASEAN economic ministers seem willing to listen to what the whole region's private sector has to say. "I must say the atmosphere is very good because for the first time, we have had very fruitful and extensive talks with the ASEAN economic ministers," says Chokchai, who is also chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries.

"I hope that in the next meeting, there will be more private sector participation in the ministerial level talks, because the local industries of each ASEAN country will be directly affected by the launch of AFTA and they need to know its direction," he added.

Of particular concern to the ASEAN private sector are the details over the rules, regulations and definitions of products to be placed, under the regional free trade agreement. He says the main reason that the ASEAN member countries still cannot agree on how to implement AFTA is because the private sector is still confused.

"We have asked the ASEAN officials to clarify the definitions of products to be put under AFTA, including those in the 'fast track', or the clear-cut rules of origins and the method of calculation for local contents," Chokchai says.

Trying to define whether palm oil is an agricultural product or a processed product is already a problem. Even the negotiators in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade have not been successful in defining agricultural products to meet the satisfaction of all countries.

Chokchai says that the preliminary agreement on the local contents in AFTA also needs to be clearly explained. "On what standard can ASEAN determine the 40 per cent local contents? What is the local content? How can you determine it?" he asks. These are some of the examples that the ASEAN negotiators will need to address. Senior officials of ASEAN have agreed on the rules of origin: products under AFTA must carry at least 40 per cent in local content from any ASEAN country that re-exports the product.

Adding to the difficulties of the negotiations are the regulations and conditions on how a member country includes products on the 'exclusion list', for products to be protected until they are strong enough to be launched into AFTA.

Starting Jan 1, 1993 ASEAN is to launched a regional free trade area that will cover some 320 million consumers. The scheme is principally an attempt to bring down tariff rates, to stimulate trade within the region, and attract more foreign investment. By the year 2000 ASEAN will claim to be a truly regional free trade area in which tariffs on manufactured goods will be no higher than 5 per cent. But the difficulty lies in the painful adjustment for local industries during this transition period. Under the fast track agreement, 15 sectors are preliminary earmarked for tariff cuts, a test of commitment in the initial period. But within these 15 sectors are more than 4,000 product items, whose inclusion or exclusion are up to the negotiations.

Thai negotiators have pointed out that they are ready to launch eight sectors into AFTA immediately, although the conditions under which they will join are subject to further talks.

Chokchai, who delivered an address to the ASEAN economic ministers yesterday, called for the member country to indicate a specific timeframe before officially announcing its list of products earmarked for tariff cuts. "In the schedule of tariff reduction, rates for the given range of raw materials input for production of a particular product should be uniform and proportionately lower than that of the corresponding finished product, so that it will enhance a true free and fair trade," he said.

This tariff problem is crucial. AFTA will not work if the tariff rate of, say, a finished electrical product is lower than the combined tariff rates of its parts and components. The sum cannot be smaller than its parts.

"If you don't modify the tax structure, the tax rates will be skewed. Then how can the manufactured goods be launched into AFTA?" Chokchai asked.

Another problem lies in how ASEAN deals with protectionist tax rates on raw materials in a domestic market. Natural gas is an example of a raw material that is protected from imports. Chotchai Bunyarat, secretary general of the ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry, added that for some sectors which have high operating cost, like the palm industry, the government will need to step in to shoulder some of the costs before it goes ahead in bringing down tariff barriers.

The ASEAN Chamber of Commerce and Industry also call for the ASEAN economic ministers to provide reports on the existing non-tariff barriers, trade restrictive measures and the schedule for their possible elimination by member countries. In addition, ASEAN must also set up a body to implement AFTA, or the AFTA Council, which will then help set up a one-step desk on AFTA in each member country. The aim is to facilitate the implementation of AFTA from both a government and private sector point of view.

"In terms of the governing body of the AFTA scheme, whatever format it should take, the body should function well and pursue a well-defined objective, and charged with the mission to fully avoid the bureaucracy, and facilitate AFTA implementation for the enhancement of ASEAN private sector initiatives," he added.

Chokchai's personal view is that the Thai government has adequately consulted with the private sector before joining its ASEAN counterparts at the negotiating table. Is it too early to launch AFTA by January 1993 even though the seeds of the action took place only earlier this year at the ASEAN Summit in Singapore in 1992.

"You cannot be too slow; you cannot go fast; but you need to get fertilized first," he said.

Japan

Panel Discusses Need for Regional Security Talks

OW1910135292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1332 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his private panel of Asian affairs experts discussed Monday the need to establish a multilateral forum to discuss regional security issues, a spokesman for the group said.

Members of the panel on the Asia-Pacific Region in the 21st Century agreed that a lasting U.S. commitment to the region is desirable, but felt that the Japan-U.S. security pact is not enough to maintain regional security, the spokesman said.

Some said the pact should be complemented by a multilateral arrangement that includes China and Russia.

Miyazawa has asked the 18-member academic panel to draw up nonbinding policy recommendations in the areas of economics, politics, and an approach to the lingering historical issues of World War II by the end of the year.

The panelists agreed that China is sure to expand its influence in the region, including its military might, the spokesman said.

He said a subcommittee on political issues concluded that Japan should be prepared to make "sacrifices" such as by opening its market and offering large amounts of economic assistance.

Other topics discussed were Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed's proposal to form an East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), leaving out the United States, and how Japan should balance expectations for leadership with lingering ill-feeling in the region over Japan's aggression during World War II.

The panel, chaired by Keio University President Tadao Ishikawa, is to convene again Saturday to hear a presentation by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Miyazawa on Framework for Asia-Pacific Security

OW2210130492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa called on the United States and other Asia-Pacific nations Thursday [22 October] to consider establishing a framework to address regional security issues.

"In recent years there have been wide-ranging discussions as to the concept and the form of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation, not only in the economic field, but also in the fields of political and security cooperation," Miyazawa said.

He was delivering a speech commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank affiliated with Georgetown University.

"I believe that it is about time for Japan, the United States, and other Asia-Pacific countries to further contemplate a framework of such Asia-Pacific regional cooperation," he told the think tank's biannual international councillors meeting, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Miyazawa said that the proposed framework would not replace Japan's security arrangements with the United States.

"The belief in the importance of the Japan-U.S. partnership is firmly shared by our two countries," Miyazawa said, adding "I am convinced that our cooperative relations will continue to be enhanced in the years to come."

Miyazawa said that the U.S. and other advanced democracies must avoid turning inward in the face of a worldwide economic slowdown.

American leadership is essential in shaping a new global partnership, Miyazawa said.

"The presence of the United States remains vital for the Asia-Pacific region. Militarily and politically the U.S. presence has been, and will continue to be, an important stabilizing factor in the region," he said.

The prime minister described the economic interdependence of Asia and the U.S. an "undeniable fact of life."

Miyazawa said that it is also essential that Russia take an active role in establishing a "new framework" for a global partnership.

But he said Japan and Russia must first resolve a half-century old territorial dispute before cooperating in the security arena.

Japan is demanding Moscow recognize Tokyo's sovereignty over four small islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviet Red Army at the close of World War II.

Some analysts here say a surge in the influence of Russian nationalists that led to the cancellation of a visit here last month by President Boris Yeltsin is stalling progress.

On a more conciliatory note, Miyazawa said that Japan hopes to see a 24 billion dollar aid package for Russia backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) move ahead as soon as possible.

The package has been held up over delays in Russia's economic reform program.

"Japan is playing an important and appropriate role in the international efforts to support Russia's reforms," which are in the interest of the entire world, Miyazawa said.

Breaking from his prepared text, Miyazawa expressed frustration and concern at the IMF's encouragement of Russia to sell armaments in order to acquire hard cash.

Russia's sales of advanced weaponry to developing countries is "something we should watch," Miyazawa said.

He said he had tried to raise the issue in July when leaders of seven major industrialized nations met in Munich, but he had been unable to do so in a constructive manner.

While Miyazawa did not mention any countries by name, some in Japan have expressed concern at China's recent purchases of advanced weaponry from Russia. In the wake of the cold war, Asia has become one of the world's leading arms consumers.

Spelling out Japan's role in international affairs, Miyazawa said that Japan would contribute to sound management of the world economy, address poverty in developing countries, and increase its participation in political issues.

He cited the dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces to United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia as an example of greater political contributions.

Japan is seeking to expand the scope of its participation in international affairs, he said.

Japan attaches high priority to strengthening ties with Europe, and is trying to diversify aid programs beyond Asia, he said, mentioning plans for a conference on African development next year.

The 80 business executives, from some 15 countries, are to hold a closed-door meeting Friday on U.S.-Japan relations and future cooperation in Asia.

Emperor Akihito Leaves for Beijing 23 Oct

OW2310020292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko left Tokyo for Beijing on Friday morning for a six-day visit to China on a specially chartered plane.

The imperial couple is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Friday afternoon.

Later Friday night, the emperor is scheduled to deliver a speech at a state dinner hosted by Chinese President Yang Shangkun. The emperor's speech has been the focus of official and public attention regarding what he will say about Japan's military aggression against China before and during World War II.

The first imperial visit to China in the history of Sino-Japanese relations is to mark the 20th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

As many as 34 people in an entourage headed by Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will be joining the unprecedented imperial visit to China.

During his stay in China, the emperor will meet Chinese leaders, including Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng.

The emperor and empress will then tour the ancient capital city of Xian in central China and travel to Shanghai to visit historical sites, cultural and educational institutions, and hold dialogues with academics, students, and farmers to highlight friendship between the two countries.

The couple will return to Japan on October 28.

DA Official Concerned Over PRC Naval Buildup

OW2310111192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Japan harbors concern over China's expansion of its naval capabilities and scope of operations, a senior Defense Agency [DA] official said in a recently published interview.

Shigeru Hatakeyama, director general of the agency's Defense Policy Bureau, voiced Japan's wariness in an interview carried in the November issue of the monthly scholarly magazine KANKAI (Official Circles).

"China is decreasing the military strength of its land forces but at the same time it's equipping its Navy with the latest technology," Hatakeyama said.

The official pointed out two current trends in China—it is increasingly producing military equipment by itself, while introducing Russian armaments.

Hatakeyama said considering those developments together with China's expansion of its presence in the disputed Spratly Islands region of the South China Sea, it appears that the scope of China's naval concerns is increasing from coastal areas "to the outer seas." "I think we must monitor this situation with great caution."

Military analysts in both China and Japan have noted Beijing appears keen to develop a blue sea fleet to buttress its regional authority.

In addition to the Spratlys, China claims the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which is called the Diaoyu Islands in Chinese.

Earlier this month, former Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka met Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and suggested China's plan to purchase an aircraft carrier from Ukraine would heighten regional tensions.

Qian denied any intention to purchase an aircraft carrier from the former Soviet republic, according to Japanese officials.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Thursday denied a recent spate of reports quoting U.S. officials in Washington as having said China purchased from Russia missile-guidance technology, surface-to-air missiles, air-to-air missile technology, tanks and tank technology, rocket engines, and rocket technology.

Hatakeyama also said in the interview that Japan's increasing defense expenditure does not go against the global trend, even though the cold war is over.

He said the United States and Germany are in the minority in having lowered their defense budgets, pointing out such countries as Britain, France, North and South Korea, and India are increasing their budgets.

The Defense Agency official said Germany and the U.S. have special reasons for slashing their defense budgets.

He said Germany has the massive cost of integrating the former East Germany to bear, while the U.S. expenditure to date has already been excessive and there is a decreased need for nuclear weapons to maintain a global military reach.

PRC Said To Scale Up Annual GNP Targets

OW1910100792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Text] Osaka, Oct. 19 KYODO—A senior Chinese foreign trade official said Monday Beijing will revise upward China's annual gross national product target through the year 2000.

Wang Wendong, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, told a news conference the Chinese economy has entered a path of long-term stable growth, citing 7.0 percent growth in the Chinese economy last year.

"There has emerged a possibility that China may revise its annual economic growth target for the years from 1991 through 2000 to 7.0 percent or higher from 6.0 percent," Wang said, adding the revision will not undermine the framework of the country's economic expansion.

He said China's economy grew at a high annual rate of 12 percent in the first eight months of this year.

Wang expressed confidence the inflation rate will be held within 6.0 percent this year.

Yakovlev: Yeltsin Himself Postponed Tokyo Trip

OW2210132892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Kagoshima, Oct. 22 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin himself, not Moscow hard-liners, apparently decided to postpone his trip to Japan last month, the president of Russia's All-Union Radio and Televison Co. said Thursday [22 October].

Yegor Yakovlev told reporters in Kagoshima that Yeltsin appeared to have made the decision alone not to go.

Days before his scheduled September 13-16 visit to Japan, Yeltsin postponed the trip and analysts speculated it was because hard-liners in the Kremlin were strongly against a deal with Japan over disputed islands off Hokkaido.

Yakovlev said he was told by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis that conservatives on the National Security Committee, Russia's highest decision-making body, did not protest the president's going to Japan as had been suggested.

Yakovlev said the two reformists explained it to him immediately after the meeting in which the decision not to go was reportedly made.

"I think the president, who knew that nothing would be accomplished even if he went to Japan, decided (not to go) by himself," said Yakovlev, who is reported to be close to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"It was rude to turn down (the trip) at the last moment. The postponement was very regrettable," he told reporters at a press conference at the opening of a three-day international television festival.

Yakovlev said there are several democratic groups in Russia that believe the disputed islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai islets—should be returned to Japan.

"But a resolution like the one Japan desires has yet to permeate all of Russia," said the former journalist for PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA.

"If Japan firmly presses for the return of the islands, the president will be forced into a very difficult position," Yakovlev said.

Tokyo To Ask Seoul To Help With Islands Issue

SK2310021792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0139 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—The Japanese Government plans to ask the Korean Government to help settle the dispute over the northern territories held by Russia, a Japanese Government official said Friday.

The request will be made during a summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and

South Korean President No Tae-u who is scheduled to visit Japan next month, said the official who asked not to be identified.

Tokyo made the decision to ask No to exert his influence over Russian President Boris Yeltsin to have a more flexible attitude toward the northern islands issue which has been a stumbling block in Russo-Japanse relations.

Seoul and Tokyo have not yet made official announcement on the date of No's unofficial visit to Japan, but they say his trip will precede Yeltsin's.

The official said that while meeting Miyazawa in Seoul in January, No expressed his hope for frequent, informal summit meetings with the Japanese leader.

Ministry Announces Suspension of Aid to Sudan

OW2310131092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1243 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Japan is suspending economic assistance to Sudan because of large-scale violations of human rights there and disruption of the relief efforts of foreign assistance organizations, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Officials said that the aid suspension, along with Japan's "deep concern" over human rights violations in Sudan, was conveyed in a meeting between Takeshi Ohara, director general of the ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, and Sudanese Ambassador to Japan Musa Muhammad 'Umar, who was summoned to the ministry.

Ohara told 'Umar that the punitive suspension covers all aid except that for "genuine humanitarian and emergency relief purposes."

Ohara explained that the aid freeze was decided on in accordance with Japan's charter of principles for extending Official Development Assistance (ODA), which in part states that full attention should be paid to the securing of basic human rights and freedoms in recipient countries.

The Sudanese envoy was also told that Japan wants his Islamic fundamentalist government to ensure the safety of the staff of international relief agencies in Sudan and allow them to conduct effective activities.

Japan further demanded that Sudan provide information on the present state of detained or arrested Sudanese employees of the foreign relief agencies in the embattled southern part of the country.

Ohara said Sudan should clarify what judicial procedures were taken before the apparent executions of some of them in Juba, and should permit access to that government garrison town both by members of international organizations and the diplomatic corps in Khartoum "so as to enable them to inspect the actual situation."

Last month, at least one local employee of the U.S. Agency for International Development was reportedly executed in Juba on grounds they worked for a subversive group seeking secession of the country's southern region.

The United Nations is conducting an investigation into the subsequent killings of two UN staff members, a nurse and a freelance journalist. A European Community staffer has also reportedly been executed.

UN organizations have reported torture, mass killings, and forced displacements of populations by Sudanese Government forces.

Officials said 'Umar replied that the various allegations and charges against his government by the United States, Europe and neighboring countries are "all based on prejudices and there are no grounds for them at all."

Through fiscal 1991 ending last March 31, Japan extended 83 billion yen in ODA to Sudan, including 67.9 billion yen in grant aid which is more than to any other country in the Middle East and North African regions.

ODA, which in fiscal 1990 totalled 6.7 billion yen, dropped to 2.9 billion yen in fiscal 1991.

Britain Said Now Likelier To Approve Maastricht

OW1910092392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0721 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—British Member of Parliamant David Howell told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday that House of Commons approval of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union is slightly more likely following last week's emergency European Community summit, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Howell, chairman of House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, said it would be necessary to increase flexibility of the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) if Britain is to rejoin the system, the official said.

European leaders met in Birmingham on Friday and publicly reaffirmed their commitment to pursuing Europe's political and economic union.

Britain and Italy pulled out of the ERM after turmoil in the currency markets forced them to devalue their currencies.

Howell, chairman of the U.K.-Japan 2000 Group, is in Japan to prepare for its eight joint meeting [as received] scheduled to be held here next March.

The U.K.-Japan 2000 Group, comprised of some 100 parliamentarians, academics and business leaders, meets annually to debate a broad range of bilateral relations from a global perspective.

The results of the discussions are submitted to leaders of the two countries.

SDPJ, Komeito Heads on Sagawa Scandal, Reforms

OW1910124692

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1300 GMT on 14 October airs a one-hour program to hear views of opposition party representatives on the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal and Japan's political reforms. The special program is in two parts, with part one carried on 14 October, and part two to be carried on 15 October.

In part one of the program entitled "Tokyo Sagawa Donation Scandal and Political Reforms; What Are the Parties' Plans for the Extraordinary Diet Session?" Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], and Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito, present their views in separate 30-minute interviews with NHK commentator Yasuhiro Koshina.

Commentator Koshina, after recapping details of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin donation scandal, asks the SDPJ head to comment on the resignation of former vice president of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], Shin Kanemaru, from the House of Representatives.

Tanabe replies: "While there have been so many corruption and graft scandals since the end of the war, this Sagawa scandal—in terms of scale or depths reached—is the worst of its kind. That is how we view it. Meanwhile, the anger of the people is boiling up over the donation of 500 million yen that was brought to light." Tanabe continues: "In view of the people's anger and their demand for a probe into the matter, the resignation of former LDP Vice President Kanemaru was to be expected. I think he should have done it earlier. I must add that we cannot say this matter is over because of his resignation as a Diet member. I think the next step is a full-scale investigation of the Sagawa case."

Tanabe insists: "We have to find out under what circumstances he accepted 500 million yen. The most important point is that the money is said to have been distributed to some 60 members of the Takeshita faction. We need to find out what happened to that money. Under the Political Fund Control Law, both the people who donate money and the people who receive money are violators of the law. It is necessary to determine clearly where the money flowed. Hence, we would like to have Mr. Kanemaru present himself before the Diet to reveal the true circumstances about the money to the people. That should be only natural."

The commentator asks Tanabe who else the SDPJ is considering summoning to the Diet in connection with the scandal. Tanabe replies: "Mr. Takeshita is deeply connected in this scandal as well. The arraignment in the trial pointed out that at the time of Takeshita's forming his cabinet, there were protest actions carried out by a right-wing organization, and that he had that action stopped by employing the help of a gangster group." "In view of such circumstances," Tanabe asserts, "the need for Mr. Takeshita to testify in the Diet is great."

Koshina notes there are also calls for Takeshita's resignation from the Diet. Tanabe says he is not pressing for Takeshita's resignation immediately, but says: "I think that Takeshita should first be allowed to testify in the Diet and disclose the truth of the matter. If Mr. Takeshita is found to have been personally involved in this matter and the issue of the gangster group, he will have no choice as a Diet member but to take responsibility."

Tanabe is asked to comment on critical views within the SDPJ about his alleging that he is lukewarm on the scandal because of his close personal relationship with Kanemaru. Tanabe admits his long association with Kanemaru, but emphasizes: "I will be firm and clear in this matter. I am determined to have the party take on the matter—with a clear line drawn. I personally will be in the forefront in pursuing the truth about this case. That is my unshakable resolve."

Asked to give his view on the fluid political situation following the resignation of Kanemaru, Tanabe notes: "The main pillar supporting the Miyazawa cabinet is said to be the Keiseikai—the Takeshita faction. With its top man gone, the group is divided. We must not regard it as fire on the other side of the river, and must watch it closely. But I feel that a new age is now coming to the LDP, which is said to be a union of factions. There is now growing political perception among the people that the time to conduct politics based on factionalism is gone, and that the party needs to change."

SDPJ Chairman Tanabe is critical of Prime Minister Miyazawa's attitude in dealing with the scandal. Tanabe says: "He has not made one simple response to calls from ourselves and the people to display leadership in the true sense. Hoping to find out what Mr. Miyazawa is really thinking, I have asked for a party leaders' meeting." He adds, "I must say that I share the people's negative view of Mr. Miyazawa."

The commentator raises the question of political reform for preventing such scandals in the future. Chairman Tanabe says: "We are aware of the people's mounting criticism of the Diet saying a lot and doing nothing. This time, we must really do something."

Asked about reform of the election system, Tanabe says: "I do not think the existing medium constituency system is good. I think it needs to be revised into a system which better reflects the will of the people. In fact, the day before yesterday, I proposed adopting a system which basically combines the proportional representation system with a constituency system, even though further studies are needed to determine which of the constituency systems—small, medium or large, or a mixture of them—is better than the others."

Commentator Koshina turns to the question of the extraordinary Diet session, asking the SDPJ head how his party plans to handle the Sagawa Kyubin scandal and the political reform issue at the Diet. The commentator reminds Tanabe that he had previously said that he intended to keep the budget bill separate from these issues. Tanabe replies: "Of course, we will take up the Sagawa Kyubin case once the Diet Budget Committee opens its session. If the government is unwilling to respond to our questions, it will be impossible for us to go on to the next topic of the agenda, leaving the Sagawa Kyubin case unattended. In other words, we are not thinking about stopping the committee session or about doing something that is tantamount to taking the supplemental budget bill hostage. Still, what is most important is to bring to light all the facts in this recent political scandal."

The interview with Tanabe ends at 1330 GMT, and an interview with Komeito Chairman Ishida begins. Again, the interviewer begins by asking for a comment on Kanemaru's resignation from the Diet. Ishida says: "This was a scandal that brought into the open the close ties between money and power. Besides, it was disclosed that a gangster group had been employed in campaigns to elect a party president and prime minister. In view of the gravity of the matter, Mr. Kanemaru's resignation as a Diet member was only natural. We consider it a solemn matter."

Asked about the Diet summoning Kanemaru to testify on the scandal, Ishida says: "I think the question of resigning as a Diet member and the question of being summoned for testimony are separate matters. His resigning did nothing to bring to light the truth of the matter. After all, this was a case of enormous magnitude. For instance, even though he is supposed to have said that the money—the 500 million yen—was distributed to Diet members of his faction, it remains unclear how that 500 million has actually been used."

The commentator asks for Ishida's view on the possibility of bringing former Prime Minister Takeshita to testify in the Diet, and the Komeito head replies: "I really believe that in a country of law and order, it should be impossible to think about involving a gangster group in a race for the party president or prime minister. But the Prosecutors' Office has made it clear that Mr. Takeshita was elected party president and prime minister by this means. Hence, naturally, Mr. Takeshita must explain and clarify what happened and, if it is found that he was elected party president this way, then he should be held responsible in political and moral terms, as much as was Mr. Kanemaru."

The interviewer notes that Ishida met with Prime Minister Miyazawa on 13 October, and asks him about that meeting. Ishida says he urged the prime minister to clearly announce his position on the Sagawa case to the nation. Ishida says he told the prime minister that if his government fails to come up with a drastic political reform plan by the end of November, as he had promised, it will be a major breach of commitment to the nation.

Commenting on Miyazawa's attitude regarding the Sagawa scandal, Ishida says his response was very "negative."

Asked to explain Komeito's plan of action dealing with the existing political situation, Chairman Ishida says: "Komeito realizes the need to tackle the problem of the people's mistrust of politics. The party will continue to fight for the truth of the matter. As far as the overall political circles are concerned, the LDP—particularly the Keiseikai—is being shaken up badly. We will have to act, while keeping a close watch on them."

Commentator Koshina asks him about the cooperative relationship that existed over the Peacekeeping Operations Bill among the LDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party early this year, and about the possibility of Komeito's cooperating with the LDP in future political reorganization. Ishida says: "As long as the problem of political corruption or the political structural problem remains unresolved, there is no way that Komeito can take concerted actions with the LDP in political reorganization. We have said so before."

Koshina asks Chairman Ishida about the possibility of Komeito cooperating with the SDPJ or other opposition parties in the Diet on the question of summoning witnesses or adopting measures to prevent political scandals. Ishida predicts, "I think that is possible."

Other Opposition Leaders Interviewed

OW1910142192

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1300 GMT on 15 October airs the second, and last part of a program entitled: "Tokyo Sagawa Donation Scandal and Political Reforms; What Are the Parties' Plans for the Extraordinary Diet Session?"

This second half of the program carries interviews with representatives of six opposition parties—Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Japan Communist Party [JCP]; Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]; Satsuki Eda, president of the Socialist Democratic Federation [SDF]; Yasumatsu Hoshikawa, representative of Rengo-Sanggiin; Shinei Kyan, represen-taitve of the Niin Club; and Moriohiro Hosokawa, representative of the New Japan Party.

NHK commentator Yasuhiro Koshina is the interviewer for all of the six separate interviews in the recorded program that lasts 82 minutes.

At 1304 GMT, commentator Koshina begins his interview with JCP chairman Fuwa, asking the latter to comment on the resignation of Shin Kanemaru of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] from the Diet. Fuwa insists it is the outcome of angry voices raised by the people. He says: "When this was revealed in a news conference the other day, I felt that the nation's people had won the first victory. The LDP's scheme was to settle the whole thing by submitting a report to the

Prosecutors' Office and having it conclude the case by issuing a summary order. But the people raised their voices in uproar and did not permit the matter to pass."

Fuwa says that what is known about the Sagawa scandal so far is "only the tip of the iceberg," and adds: "Responsibilities for the case have not been fixed; we have to apply our energy to looking into the matter with the support of the people."

Asked to explain specifically what his party intends to do, the JCP chairman says the party wants to find out what happened to the 500 million yen Shin Kanemaru admitted to having received from Sagawa Kyubin. "It is necessary to determine how the money was used—where it went," he asserts. He continues: "A really important aspect of this case is that a gangster group was involved in it. Takeshita solicited the help of the gangster group in the course of getting himself appointed prime minister. That is something previously unheard of."

The party head insists that all the people said to have been involved in the scandal should be summoned to the Diet to testify, saying: "Naturally, Mr. Kanemaru should be summoned. Mr. Takeshita too. He is a party concerned in the case and was a key player. The Sagawa people who donated the money, and the people of the gangster organization involved should be summoned as well."

The JCP chairman is particularly critical about the position of the Miyazawa cabinet regarding the scandal. He asserts that the LDP and the government have not "taken a responsible position on the matter." In asking for Miyazawa's responsibility, Fuwa says his party will demand "dissolution" of the Miyazawa cabinet.

Commenting on the LDP's move to revise the existing election system in favor of adopting a small constituency system, Fuwa insists the LDP'S concept is based on securing "enough seats in the House of Representatives to be able to amend even the Constitution." He says the election system reform should be carried out, retaining the current medium constituency system.

In connection with the forthcoming extraordinary session of the Diet, commentator Koshina notes the two major tasks facing the Diet are an action for political reform and the passing of a supplemental budget to implement economic stimulus measures, and asks Fuwa which of the two he considers more important. Fuwa replies that if the LDP is willing to accept the opposition demand on summoning witnesses to the Diet relating to the Sagawa case, there is no reason why other matters on the Diet agenda should not proceed. He insists the major responsibility for smooth operation of the Diet "rests with the LDP."

Asked to give his view on the peacekeeping operations (PKO) of the Self-Defense Force troops now underway in Cambodia, the JCP head reiterates the party position of disapproving of the operations. Citing news media reports, he says the government sent troops to an area where armed conflict is still going on. He says that is against the PKO law. He adds: "We will continue to attempt to have the operations suspended." The interview with Fuwa ends at 1327 GMT, and the interview with DSP Chairman Ouchi begins immediately.

Koshina, the interviewer, once again begins his questions by asking for a comment on the resignation of Shin Kanemaru. Ouchi is no exception to the view that the resignation was only to be expected. In reply to a question about whether Ouchi thought Kanemaru should be summoned to the Diet to testify on the scandal even though he did tender his resignation, chairman Ouchi says: "By resigning as a Diet member, Mr. Kanemaru cleared up the problem of his own responsibility. But there has been no progress made on the question of delving into the matter in quest of the truth as demanded by the people. To bring out the truth, it is essential that he appear and testify."

Asked by Koshina to comment on demands by some opposition parties for Mr. Takeshita's testimony at the Diet and his resignation from the Diet, Ouchi says: "Our party has already demanded that. Mr. Takeshita has not said a word about his resignation. If the rumors turn out to be true, he should take responsibility." Ouchi also describes the alleged involvement of the criminal syndicates in the inauguration of the Takeshita government as a grave problem. Asked by Koshina to comment on the ramifications of Mr. Kanemaru's resignation on the future political situation, Ouchi says: "Although the struggle for leadership of the Takeshita faction is underway, I believe that the very existence of the LDP is being questioned in the wake of the scandal. As indicated by some LDP leaders, there is a dual power structure between the government and the LDP and this should be broken." Ouchi also urges LDP factions to shape up and break their factional politics, pointing out that the LDP's factional politics is a source of corruption within Japanese politics. Asked by Koshina to comment on the political reform aimed at preventing a recurrence of such a scandal, Ouchi blames Prime Minister Miyazawa for failing to read the people's genuine hopes for political reform, and stresses the need to "make political funds clean." Ouchi also says it is an urgent matter to revise the Political Funds Control Law in line with the people's hopes for preventing a recurrence of the recent scandal, and adds that the upcoming extraordinary Diet session should tackle the question of revising the law. Asked by Koshina how the extraordinary Diet session should deal with the supplementary budget, Ouchi says: The "extraordinary Diet session should deal with the supplementary budget as a priority matter. What concerns the people now the most is the economy. The economy directly affects their lives. If the current economy is left untouched, this means a major failure for Japanese politics. Therefore, the extraordinary Diet session will be called on to come up with measures to stimulate the stagnant economy." Ouchi adds that the Diet session also needs to summon Mr. Kanemaru and Mr. Takeshita to testify.

At 1350 GMT, Koshina begins the interview with Eda. Asked to comment on Mr. Kanemaru's resignation, Eda says that "his resignation came too late, but his resignation means a victory for democracy." He stresses the need to summon Mr. Kanemaru and Mr. Takeshita to testify before the Diet. Eda also says that the Miyazawa Cabinet should resign en masse to take responsibility. Asked to comment on the present political situation, Eda says that the main opposition party, the SDPJ, should seize this opportunity to reform Japanese politics, adding that his party plans to forge an alliance with that party. Eda also says he thinks that the "opposition parties are also partly responsible for the recent scandal."

At 1359 GMT, Koshina begins the interview with Hoshikawa. Commenting on Mr. Kanemaru's resignation, Hoshikawa says: "I believe his resignation cannot settle all problems," adding that his party will seek a thorough probe into Mr. Kanemaru's implication in the scandal. Hoshikawa also notes the need to summon politicians involved to testify before the Diet. Referring to the alleged links between politicians and criminal syndicates, Hoshikawa says that the "Diet should ascertain Mr. Takeshita's responsibility," adding that Mr. Kanemaru should be summoned to testify before the Diet to make clear his alleged links with criminal syndicates. Asked about political reform, Hoshikawa stresses the need for legislation of a tough law under which corrupt politicians are forced out of political circles. Asserting that Japanese politics is in gridlock, Hoshikawa notes the need to break the gridlock. Conceding a crushing defeat of the Rengo-Sanggiin in the summer upper house elections, Hoshikawa says that his party will work to rebuild relationships with other opposition parties.

At 1408 GMT, Koshina begins the interview with Kyan. Regarding Mr. Kanemaru's resignation, Kyan says: "Public outrage has forced him to resign from the Diet. Additional investigations are needed to clarify the flow of funds that Mr. Kanemaru received illegally." Revealing that he has encouraged Mr. Aoshima's campaign against Mr. Kanemaru, Kyan stresses the need to push for political reform.

At 1415 GMT, Koshina begins the interview with Hosokawa. Commenting on Mr. Kanemaru's resignation, Hosokawa says that the "Kanemaru issue stems from the political structure in Japan" and notes the need to take measures to prevent a recurrence of such a scandal. Asked about the question of Mr. Takeshita's testimony before the Diet and his resignation from the Diet, Hosokawa says that Mr. Takeshita should clarify unclear points. Discussing measures to prevent a recurrence of the scandal, Hosokawa stresses the importance of making the flow of political funds transparent.

At 1422 GMT, Koshina ends the interview program after expressing thanks to Mr. Hosokawa.

Obuchi Named Leader of LDP's Biggest Faction

OW2210160392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1549 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 22 KYODO—Keizo Obuchi is the new leader of the Liberal Democratic Party's biggest faction, the head of the group's eight-member nomination committee said.

Ken Harada said the decision was taken at a meeting of the committee which was boycotted by three members who are backing Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata as new leader.

The three Hata supporters—Ichiro Ozawa, Hajime Funada and Moriyoshi Sato—rejected the decision.

Harada's announcement threw the 109-member faction into a de facto division into two groups—the pro-Obuchi group and one loyal to Ozawa, who had been heir apparent of retired faction head Shin Kanemaru, political sources said.

The committee has agreed that Obuchi is the best choice as faction leader and that Hata should continue his duties as finance minister, Harada said.

Obuchi, a former LDP secretary general, accepted the nomination and said at a press conference that he would do his best to mend the rift in the faction.

The eight-member committee comprises Harada, Obuchi, Ozawa, Funada, Sato, Ryutaro Hashimoto, Hideo Utsumi, and Shigenobu Sakano.

Following an overnight conclave session from Wednesday through Thursday morning, Harada nominated Obuchi as the right man to succeed Kanemaru to head the faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Ozawa denounced the nomination as "incomprehensive" and called for a public debate on policy affairs between Obuchi and Hata.

On Thursday, senior House of Councillors members of the faction agreed in a meeting to endorse Harada's designation of Obuchi as new faction leader and called for an early settlement of the factional strife.

Following the endorsement of Obuchi from the upper house faction members, Harada, Obuchi, Hashimoto, Utsumi and Sakano met again and decided on the nomination.

The No. 1 faction, formally called the "Keisei-Kai," comprises 109 legislators—67 from the House of Representatives and 42 from the House of Councillors—accounting for more than one-quarter of all LDP Diet members.

Kanemaru, called the kingmaker in Japan's political world, vacated his seat in the House of Representatives and the top faction post to take responsibility for his illicit receipt of a 500 million yen donation from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a mob-connected express delivery service that has since been absorbed by its parent company.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa telephoned Hata on Thursday, urging him to make efforts as a cabinet minister to put an early end to the factional fighting, sources close to Miyazawa said.

Pointing to a host of political tasks, Miyazawa was quoted as telling Hata that if the current strife in the Takeshita faction continues, it would damage the people's trust in the LDP.

Hata was quoted as replying that his involvement in factional activities would not affect his duties as finance minister, adding that he is embarrassed to be supported by faction members.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, a member of Miyazawa's faction, also urged the LDP No. 1 faction to settle soon on a chief.

"I hope the divisions within the Takeshita faction will be resolved as soon as possible, even a day, an hour early," Kato told a regular press conference. "They were supposed to arrive at an agreement yesterday."

Holds News Conference

OW2210174392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1727 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Keizo Obuchi said Friday he has replaced retired power broker Shin Kanemaru as the leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's biggest faction, and pledged his group would continue to support Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The No. 1 faction, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, has supported Miyazawa since he took office last year, "and we have no plan to change at this stage," Obuchi told a news conference.

Obuchi met reporters shortly after midnight Thursday following an announcement by the head of the faction's eight-member nomination committee that Obuchi is now the new leader of the faction.

Ken Harada, who chaired the committee, told a news conference that Obuchi's nomination was decided at a meeting of the committee which was boycotted by three members who are backing Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata as new leader.

Harada's announcement threw the 109-member faction into a de facto division into two groups—the pro-Obuchi group and one loyal to Ichiro Ozawa, who backed Hata as new leader, political sources said.

Hajime Ishii, an associate of Ozawa, said that his camp did not recognize Obuchi as new head, and called for a vote.

Ozawa was seen as the heir apparent of Kanemaru, who resigned from the Diet formally on Wednesday over his involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal.

"We will do what is necessary to support (Miyazawa) in exercising leadership in areas such as political reforms and economic policies during the remainder of his term," Obuchi said.

Miyazawa's two-year term of office as LDP president ends next October.

Obuchi, a mild-mannered politician, is known for his loyalty to Takeshita, who founded the faction in 1987.

Of the 67 LDP members in the House of Representatives, 36 support Ozawa, 17 Obuchi, and 14 are uncommitted. Most of the 42 LDP members in the House of Councillors back Obuchi.

The five major factions that comprise the LDP are based on loyalty to the faction leader, who is expected to secure campaign funds and political posts for members. Ideology plays little role.

The Takeshita faction, also known as the "Keisei-Kai" accounts for more than one-quarter of all LDP Diet members.

Obuchi said he hoped to continue to talk with the pro-Ozawa members, but that he would do his best to work harmoniously with members who wish to continue to participate in the faction.

Asked about his stance on the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Obuchi said that "politicians are not prosecutors," adding that he expected any further details to be revealed in the "fair" jurisdiction of the justice system. [passage omitted]

Profile of Keizo Obuchi

OW2210165092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1631 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Keizo Obuchi, who was declared Thursday the new leader of the largest faction within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is regarded as the closest aide of former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, the founder of the faction.

The soft-spoken Obuchi has been trusted by his political mentor and faction founder since he entered politics decades ago.

Last Saturday, he acted as de facto spokesman for his political boss, who is under fire for his alleged links with mobsters in winning the LDP presidency and thus the premiership in 1987.

Obuchi said that Takeshita, if summoned, may appear before the Diet to try to dispel the allegations—a remark indicating that Takeshita had told him of his readiness to testify.

It is little wonder if Takeshita has pulled strings within the LDP's biggest faction, which he founded five years ago, to enable Obuchi to be its new leader, political analysts say.

Obuchi, 55, a 10-time member of the House of Representatives from Gunma Prefecture, north of Tokyo, was declared new faction leader amid growing speculation that the faction would split due to intensifying rivalry among senior faction leaders.

The faction, officially called the Keisei-Kai, comprises more than one-quarter of all LDP parliamentarians.

Obuchi was first elected to the lower house in 1963 while enjoying graduate school at Tokyo's Waseda University, succeeding his father to the Diet seat. He thus became one of the dominant "second-generation" politicians.

Obuchi, a survivor of many hard battles in his four-seat No. 3 Gunma Prefecture bloc, is invariably optimistic and half-jokingly dubs himself an "obuchimist."

The constituency has also returned two former prime ministers in Yasuhiro Nakasone and Takeo Fukuda, the latter retiring two years ago.

Obuchi has a generally modest and gentle manner, and is known for his ability to make subtle political judgments and to avoid making enemies.

A practitioner of the Japanese martial art aikido, Obuchi has long experience in senior party and Diet posts.

He first joined the cabinet as a state minister in 1979 when the late former Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira named him to hold simultaneously the directorships of the Management and Coordination Agency and the Okinawa Development Agency.

He was deputy party secretary general in 1984 and chairman of the House of Representatives budget committee in 1986.

He also served last year as LDP secretary general, one of the three key party posts, under former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Takeshita's faction was the main backer of Kaifu, who was from the smallest faction within the governing conservative party.

But people in Japan probably remember Obuchi most as the chief cabinet secretary who announced the name of the new imperial era heisei, meaning achievement of peace, in January 1989 after the death of Emperor Hirohito, the father of Emperor Akihito.

The bespectacled politician served as the top government spokesman during Takeshita premiership of 1987-1989.

Takeshita was forced to resign from the premiership in 1989 over his involvement in the recruit shares-for-favors scandal.

At Waseda University, Obuchi was a member of the university's political debating club, whose members included former Prime Minister Kaifu and former Transport Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka who heads the second largest faction within the LDP, and Yoshiro Mori, the incumbent chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council.

Before seeking a Diet seat, Obuchi traveled in 48 countries with the aim of broadening his horizons.

Takeshita Faction on Brink of 'De Facto' Split

OW2310073192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—The largest faction of the ruling party faced breakup Friday after senior faction leaders declared Keizo Obuchi faction chief the night before with Ichiro Ozawa backers boycotting.

"The only remaining way would be a de facto breakup," said Transport Minister Keiwa Okuda of the pro-Ozawa camp.

"I think efforts to patch the crack will be made, but it will be difficult to reconcile," Okuda told reporters. "It is necessary to have time to discuss whether to form a new (policy) group or a new party."

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, whom Ozawa tapped as candidate for faction head, criticized the choice of Obuchi, which came at a meeting of senior leaders that Ozawa loyalists did not attend.

"Why did they do reckless things while three of the eight were absent? The procedures were faulty," he said.

Hata would not say clearly whether he will withdraw his name as candidate to head the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) faction founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

Pro-Ozawa spokesman Hajime Funada said his group will strive to avoid a faction split.

The pro-Ozawa group canceled a meeting slated for Friday morning, saying it will refrain from factional activities while Emperor Akihito is visiting China from Friday through Wednesday. Ozawa loyalists had planned to hold a rally of 36 members in the House of Representatives.

Ozawa, a former LDP secretary general, is the handpicked successor to former party vice president and Takeshita faction head Shin Kanemaru, who resigned from the Diet over his illegal acceptance of a half-billion yen contribution from a mob-connected company.

Obuchi visited Kanemaru, Takeshita and LDP executives including Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki to pay his respects as new faction leader.

The fallen power broker reportedly urged Obuchi to avoid a breakup of the faction.

The five who met Thursday and named Obuchi as faction head were Obuchi, former Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Hideo Utsumi, Shigenobu Sakano, and senior adviser Ken Harada. Boycotting were Ozawa, Funada and Moriyoshi Sato.

Since Sunday those eight have met intermittently to discuss a successor to Kanemaru, who stepped down in August as LDP vice president and quit the Diet on October 14 as public outrage swelled over his receipt of money from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin express delivery company and his subsequent fine of just 200,000 yen after a summary indictment.

After an overnight conclave through Thursday morning, Harada, who chairs the eight-man committee, nominated Obuchi as the right man to succeed Kanemaru.

Ozawa denounced the nomination as "incomprehensible."

Of the 67 LDP members in the lower house, 36 support Ozawa, 17 Obuchi, and 14 are uncommitted. Most of the 42 LDP members in the House of Councillors back Obuchi.

The LDP is a coalition of five major factions whose leaders are expected to secure campaign funds and political posts for their members. Ideology plays little role.

The 109 members of the Takeshita faction, formally known as the "Keisei-kai," account for more than one-fourth of the LDP parliamentarians. The faction and its predecessor, led by former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, have held dominant power in Japanese politics and engineered cabinets behind the scenes for 20 years.

Tokyo 1991 Political Funds Reach Record High

OW1910040492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0346 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 19 KYODO—Political groups in Tokyo raised a record of more than 21 billion yen in political funds in 1991, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Election Administration Commission said in a report Monday.

The report said funds raised by 3,468 political groups in Tokyo hit a record 21.17 billion yen, up 4.56 billion yen from 1990.

The commission officials attributed the increase to intense campaigning for unified local elections such as the Tokyo gubernatorial election in April 1990.

Of the political groups, the one supporting Tokyo Gov. Shunichi Suzuki raised the most at 591 million yen, the report said.

The group supporting Hisanori Isomura, who also ran for the governorship, was second with 529 million yen, it said.

Political organizations collected 11.57 billion yen of the total revenue through contributions from political groups, companies, and individuals, the report said.

The amount collected through such contributions was up 33.0 percent from 1990, it said.

The groups raised 3.81 billion yen through other measures, such as supply of campaign funds for election candidates from political parties, and 1.2 billion yen through holding parties and by issuing organ papers, the report said.

The report also said the political groups spent a total of 20.99 billion yen in 1991, up 4.68 billion yen from the previous year.

Of the total expenditure, 13.1 billion yen was used for political activities, up 3.85 billion yen from 1990, it said.

With a total of 9.6 billion yen collected in Tokyo by the political parties in 1990, the Japanese Communist Party was the biggest fund-raiser, followed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party.

Ministry Plans To Spend More on Public Works

OW2310125992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1247 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—The Finance Ministry plans to spend an additional 2.9 trillion yen on public works projects under the government fiscal investment and loan program in the current fiscal year, ministry sources said Friday.

The new spending measure is the second of its kind in fiscal 1992 following an additional allocation of some 1.4 trillion yen for the so-called "Zaito" program and bringing the sum of additional spending to a record 4.39 trillion yen.

The Zaito program is funded largely by postal savings and funds in the program are distributed chiefly to public works.

Of the latest additional money, 1.87 trillion yen will be allocated to public corporations and governmental financial institutions such as Japan Finance Corporation for Small Businesses.

Japan Finance Corporation for Small Businesses, formerly called Small Business Finance Corp., is one of the public lending agencies that provide low-interest loans to small businesses.

BOJ Predicts Quarterly Money Supply Zero Growth

OW2310091392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) predicted Friday that the broad money supply will post no growth in the October-December quarter as bank lending will remain weak.

In its quarterly outlook on the economy, the central bank said the year-on-year growth of M2—cash and time and demand deposits—plus certificates of deposit will be nil during the three months.

The broadly-defined money supply posted zero growth in the July-September period from the same period last year.

While the fiscal payments will serve to increase the money supply, the bank lending will be quite sluggish, putting a lid on the money supply expansion, the bank said.

Forecasts 'Feeble' Recovery

OW2310135192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1034 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) Friday forecast a feeble and slow recovery ahead, with no powerful engine coming from private-sector demand.

In its quarterly analysis and outlook on the economy, the central bank said while the economy is still in an adjustment phase, the conditions for a bottoming-out are setting in.

The overall economy will take an upturn before long, but the pace of recovery will be slow for the time being, the BOJ said.

A BOJ official said industrial production probably hit bottom in the July-September quarter.

The end of the inventory adjustments will come into view by the end of the January-March period at the latest, and corporate profits will bottom out in the second half of fiscal 1992, which runs through March 1993, he said.

"We are seeing a dim light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

The BOJ official said the bank will keep watching the strength of the light and how fast it is becoming brighter in deciding on its monetary policy.

He admitted that consumer spending has become weaker than the central bank had anticipated, pointing out that not only household income but also the propensity to consume is declining.

The official, however, stressed that consumer spending is unlikely to keep falling for long because labor conditions will remain relatively stable.

"It is quite unlikely that we will see such a painful employment adjustment as occurred during the recession following the first oil crisis," he said.

With the outlook for the recovery still murky, many economists in the private-sector are looking for another cut in the official discount rate by the end of the year.

"The economic prospect is still dim and the stock market shows signs of getting into another round of decline," said Yukio Yanbe, chief economist at the DKB Research Institute Corp., an affiliate of the Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank.

"We have now only two realistic options as the steps to boost the economy, and those are monetary easing and income tax cuts," he said.

"And cutting interest rates is much easier."

He said the BOJ may cut the benchmark lending rate around the time its next quarterly survey on business confidence is released in December.

Nobuhiko Nakamura, chief economist at Sakura Bank, said the coming improvement will be not be a bona fide recovery. It will provide no real feelings of recovery, he said.

"The extraordinarily high level of stock (of inventories and capital investments) makes this a unique recession," he said.

"We are going to have a long drawn-out period of stock adjustment, which will make the recovery a lackluster one."

Nakamura said further monetary easing will have little effect to stimulate the economy.

"Another cut or two (in the official discount rate) will do little to boost the demand for funds."

Moreover, the BOJ may want to hold back in case the government needs to provide a psychological boost when it becomes clear the economy is not picking up any time soon and has no other measures to prop it up.

Long-Term Credit Banks To Lower Prime Rate

OW2310130292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 23 KYODO—Japan's three long-term credit banks are planning to lower their prime lending rate by 0.2 percentage point to an annual 5.5 percent effective November 2, officials of the banks said Friday.

The first reduction since September 1 will bring the long-term prime rate to the lowest level since July 1988 and analysts expect other financial institutions such as trust banks and life insurance companies to follow suit by lowering their long interest rates.

The move will likely stimulate corporate capital investment now hammered by mounting uncertainties over the economic outlook such as the first negative growth in the September money supply released Tuesday, the analysts said.

The 0.2 percentage point cut reflects a plan by the three banks to lower the November coupon rate on their benchmark five-year interest-bearing debentures to 4.6 percent from the October 4.8 percent, the officials said.

The three banks are the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ), and Nippon Credit Bank.

The long-term prime rates are customarily set 0.9 percentage point above the coupon on five-year debentures.

The banks revise the coupon when the gap with the secondary market rate widens more than 0.2 percentage point and as of Friday, the market rate on five-year debentures stood at 4.6 percent for the Long-Term Credit Bank but at above 4.6 percent for IBJ and Nippon Credit.

North Korea

U.S., ROK Military Activity Near DMZ Alleged

SK2310063792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are these days perpetrating military provocations more frequently in areas near the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], according to military sources.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors on Oct. 21 let an EH-60 helicopter fly above an area near the MDL for electronic jamming and electronic reconnaissance on the frontline area and the inland of the northern half of Korea.

Meanwhile, formations of helicopters of the South Korean puppet army held a war exercise for a surprise attack on targets in the area of the North side, making low and ultra-low flights above the area between Paju and Yonchon.

The South Korean puppets on Oct. 20 staged in a real war atmosphere an exercise of infiltrating into the depth of the North and an exercise of dropping war supplies to "commandoes" in "case of emergency" with the mobilization of transport helicopters in the sky above Paeknyon-ri, Paju County, and Munsan and Yonchon. They let a group of large-calibre artillery pieces fire shells at some areas in the DMZ along the MDL on Oct. 21.

The U.S. imperialists deployed formations of Pacific-based nuclear-capable fighter-bombers, mid-air refuelling tankers, assault planes and VTOL assault planes in U.S. Air Force bases in South Korea from Oct. 19 to 21.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continuously reinforce the Armed Forces in South Korea and perpetrate military provocations in the area along the MDL, staging the reckless '92 operation of prevailing over communism, they will encounter bitter denunciation at home and abroad.

Defense Minister Meets Chinese CPLA Veterans

SK2310111692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—Minister of People's Armed Forces O Chin-u today met and had friendly conversations with a delegation of the former Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) headed by Vice Admiral Wei Jinshan, political commissar of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army [CPLA], and a delegation of heroes of the former CPV headed by Lieutenant General Liu Zhitian, deputy airforce commander of the CPLA.

Present there were General Chon Chae-son of the Korean People's Army and Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi.

Head Wei Jinshan said that the Korean people have made a great success in the socialist construction after the war under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade President Kim Il-song.

He spoke about the great care shown by President Kim Il-song to the Chinese People's Volunteers during the past Korean war.

They realised well in the period of the past Korean war that the Korean people were heroic people, he said, adding: No one can defeat the Korean people.

Ninth N-S JNCC Meeting Held 22 Oct

SK2310010092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] The ninth meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] was held on 22 October at Tongilgak on our side's area of Panmunjom upon our side's proposal.

In his keynote speech, our side's chairman pointed out that as part of an emergency measure, the ninth North-South JNCC meeting is taking place ahead of schedule because a grave situation is being created in the road ahead to achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

He said that if the four joint committee meetings are held one after another in early November as agreed upon by both sides at the eighth round of North-South high-level talks in Pyongyang, the North and South can truly reconcile and unite, and open a momentous phase in promoting the nation's reunification development. He also said that in the past the North-South JNCC held members' contacts on several occasions and the discussions made considerable progress on the regulations of inspection, thus making it possible to have the hope of carrying out inspection to verify denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in the near future.

Nevertheless, unexpectedly, the South side recently held a so-called annual Security Consultative Meeting with the United States and agreed to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise—a nuclear war exercise—by picking a quarrel on our nonexistent nuclear issue. Therefore, this is intentionally straining the situation on the Korean peninsula and creating a great danger to the North-South dialogue, especially the prospects for the North-South JNCC meeting. Our side strongly urged the South side to assume responsibility for this.

Our side pointed out that the South side's action to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States is first of all an action of selling the nation, which completely goes against the basic spirit of the historical Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which was effectuated after taking great pains by both sides. He continued to say: Your side deserted the promise made with your fellow countrymen, and along with the Americans—the outside forces—your side decided to carry out the nuclear war exercise to attack us, your fellow countrymen.

The South side adopted and effectuated the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula by sitting face to face with us and held the JNCC meetings to implement it. However, the South side dragged in U.S. nuclear weapons behind our back and attempted to resume large-scale nuclear war exercises to oppose us. Under this condition we cannot but wonder whether the South side can be our independent counterpart for dialogue.

Our side emphasized that if the South side has the intention to achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, it should quickly free itself from the position of depending on outside forces and become an independent and reliable counterpart for dialogue.

Secondly, our side said that the decision by the South side to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States is not only an act infringing upon the basic spirit of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but is also an overall violation of it. Our side continued to say that the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was an agreement solemnly promised before the nation and world by both sides to sincerely implement it. No one side can violate it or make it into a blank piece of paper of its own accord. If any one side signs the agreement yesterday but violates it today of its own accord, the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula cannot be realized at all, and North-South dialogue cannot be carried out sincerely.

Then, our side strongly condemned the South side's decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise together with the United States which is undoubtedly an act of completely violating and revoking the joint declaration of denuclearization.

Third, our side's chairman stressed that the South side's decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise together with the United States is not only an act of destroying all North-South dialogues, including the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission, but is also an act of blocking the implementation of all agreements reached thus far between the North and the South.

Finally, saying that at today's meeting our side puts forward an important proposal out of the sheer desire to solve the grave situation facing the Joint Nuclear Control Commission, to sincerely implement the joint declaration of denuclearization, and to make smooth progress in the discussion of inspection rules, our side's chairman put forward the following three-point proposal:

First, the North and the South shall make joint efforts to not only withdraw the agreement of the 24th South Korean-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which may trigger a nuclear war in our country by the end of November, but also to make public this fact internally and externally.

Second, the North and the South shall not conduct any military exercise—which mobilizes nuclear weapons and their related equipment of foreign countries—within the boundary of our country in an effort to completely remove the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

Third, the North and the South shall make active efforts to conduct inspections for the verification of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula at an early date by advancing, sincerely discussing, and agreeing on constructive proposals to break the impasse in the discussion of an agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration of denuclearization and inspection rules on condition that the agreement at the 24th South Korean-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting on the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise is revoked.

Our side stressed that the proposal includes just measures which have been brought about by the sheer desire to solve the grave situation facing the Joint North-South Nuclear Control Commission and to conduct inspections for the verification of denuclearization by making progress in the discussion of inspection rules in conformity with the desire and expectation of the people at home and abroad. Then, our side urged the South side to accept the proposal.

The South side's chairman spoke next.

The South side, after making the farfetched statement that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not a nuclear war exercise but is a defensive drill, openly said that it would resume the military exercise unless nuclear suspicion is eliminated. In connection with this unwarranted attitude by the South side, our side proved, citing detailed examples, that the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a nuclear war exercise and urged the South side to give a clear answer to this. Then, our side asked the South side: Does the South side not value the promises it has made with fellow countrymen, or hold dear the things it is doing with Americans, with the outside forces? But, the South side evaded an answer.

In conclusion, our side proposed to make public to the nation points of agreement in the form of a joint communique on the basis of the three-point proposal that our side put forward at today's meeting. But, the South side opposed it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, our side urged the South side to give clear answers at the next meeting to our proposal reflecting the demands of all fellow countrymen who want genuine denuclearization and peace on the Korean peninsula.

It was agreed to hold the next 10th meeting of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission on 10 November.

Exchange Committee Head Denounces Team Spirit

SK2210141492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1310 GMT 22 Oct 92

["Press statement" by Kim Chong-u, chairman of the North-South Joint Economic Cooperation and Exchange Committee, issued in Pyongyang on 22 October—read by announcer]

[Text] Today all fellow countrymen in the North, the South and overseas sincerely hope that the meeting of the North-South Joint Economic Cooperation and Exchange Committee slated for November will proceed satisfactorily to ensure unified development of the national economy and will make an appropriate contribution to expediting national reunification.

The South Korean authorities, however, discarded their promise to us by going against the expectations of the whole nation. They decided to resume the large-scale Team Spirit joint military exercise next year. They also took such alarming steps that can be taken only on the eve of war such as suspending the second-phase reduction of U.S. troops in South Korea and the deployment of the United States' rapid deterrent armed forces.

This is not only an anti-dialogue act of declaring the rupture of North-South dialogue but also an intolerable criminal act of blocking economic cooperation and exchanges between the North and South.

The South Korean authorities are well aware that dialogue in various channels is in a state of suspension with the operation of North-South joint committees in various domains including the Joint Economic Cooperation and Exchange Committee near at hand. This notwithstanding, they are trying to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. We cannot repress our indignation, along with our surprise concerning this.

As is clear to anyone, multilateral cooperation and exchanges between the North and the South cannot be consistent with a large-scale military exercise.

By making great efforts, the North and the South adopted and effectuated an annexed agreement on cooperation and exchange. Needless to say, the basic purpose of this is to remove misunderstanding and distrust which have accumulated between the North and the South over a long period of time, to achieve reconciliation and unity as one nation, and to promote common national prosperity and national reunification.

Cooperation and exchange, therefore, between the North and the South demand that both sides create a mutually good atmosphere. In order to do so, neither side should carry out acts of inciting or threatening the other side.

Even though the North and the South worked out an annexed agreement in the cooperation and exchange domain after long and strenuous efforts, if confrontation and tension are aggravated between the two sides due to incitement and threat by one side against the other, such an agreement cannot be successfully implemented. This is as clear as daylight.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise which the South Korean authorities are planning to conduct again with the United States is a large-scale practical mobilization exercise that fully assumes us as their enemy. It is a very dangerous test nuclear war exercise.

According to the annexed agreement on the implementation and observance of the North-South cooperation and exchange of Chapter Three of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange between the North and the South, the North and the South are supposed to take practical steps to connect the disconnected railways and roads and to open sea routes and air routes. They are also supposed to take steps for measures for the joint development of resources, joint ventures, and exchange of goods at the Joint Economic Cooperation and Exchange Committee. The two sides are supposed to allow travel exchanges of a considerable number of persons to materialize the collaboration in the economic field which they have been pushing ahead.

Needless to say, these matters cannot be realized smoothly while a large-scale thermonuclear war rehearsal is conducted with firing guns aimed at waging an attack on the other side with foreign forces.

At the same time as they declared the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the South Korean authorities took a step of indefinitely postponing the joint venture project which we and the South Korean Daewoo Group have been pushing ahead for quite some time. What is the intent then of the South Korean authorities who are planning to resume the suspended Team Spirit joint military exercise now when the full-fledged implementation of the North-South agreement is at hand?

We cannot help but think that the South Korean authorities attach greater importance to the promise they made to the Americans, the foreign forces, than the promise they made to their fellow countrymen and to the nation. They stand in the antinational position of not desiring economic cooperation and exchange between the North and South. They attach greater importance to U.S. interests than national interests.

In implementing the North-South agreement that has been effectuated and in implementing the annexed agreements, it is important above all to properly maintain the position of national independence, placing national interest first and subordinating everything else to it. If the South Korean authorities had the slightest national conscience and valued the North-South agreements highly, they would not resort to the antinational act of conducting war commotions betraying their fellow countrymen, as they do. They would also not lose the spirit of national independence and follow foreign forces.

We cannot help but deplore the fact that the South Korean authorities have not abandoned the policy of depending on foreign forces even now. If the South Korean authorities truly wish to become an independent dialogue partner in their relations with us, they should make a decision to call off the plan of resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise which they agreed upon with the United States from an unequal and subjugated position.

If the South Korean authorities conduct the Team Spirit joint military exercise in defiance of our consistent demand, the demand of all fellow countrymen, and the demand of the world's peace-loving people, they should know that they will be subjected to the stern consternation of the nation, being held responsible for frustrating all North-South dialogue, and reverting North-South relations back to the state of confrontation.

South Students Block U.S. Envoy From Seminar

SK2310061592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—More than 300 students of Pusan University on October 22 staged a strong protest against the participation of the U.S. ambassador to South Korea in an academic symposium, a Seoul-based radio report said.

Learning that Gregg was going to attend the international academic symposium to be held in the university, the students blocked the front and back gates of the university and staged a demonstration from noon, shouting anti-U.S. slogans.

Gregg was compelled to give up the idea of participating in the symposium.

South's Espionage Charges Denied, Condemned

SK2310155292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Pyongyang October 23 (KCNA)—The South Korean "Security Planning Board" [SPB], the general headquarters of intelligence politics, recently made public the results of investigation into the "case of the Workers' Party of Korea in South Korea", another fantastic anti-DPRK fabrication. Each time the struggle of the people for independence, democracy and reunification rose to a new high, the SPB never forgets to make such announcement about a "case".

The South Korean "Central Intelligence Agency", the predecessor of the SPB, which was notorious as an "invisible government" and "second Chongwadae," was an immediate offspring of the treacherous May 16 military coup d'etat which was staged some 30 years ago to stamp out the people's desire for independence, democracy and reunification.

The SPB, a tool for the "security of power", has obeyed only the "president", a fascist dictator, in the whole period of its existence.

As the magazine WOLGAN CHOSON said, this repressive machine has engaged in "pursuit of opposition assemblymen's affairs with women, operation for the split-up of opposition parties, interference in the administrative affairs, black propaganda, bribing, intimidation, torture, shadowing, bugging, etc." for the "security of power".

The youth Korean magazine MAL said the SPB is virtually the "centre of the Democratic Liberal Party" which produced the "DLP regime and has the last say in political decisions. This well shows what position this repressive machine for the "security of power" holds in the South Korean ruling group.

It is inevitable that the SPB has focused suppression on the South Korean people's struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

Down through history, each time a case occurred in South Korea it was followed by a "spectre", which was nothing but a plot and fabrication by the SPB.

The SPB unhesitatingly labels an innocent person as a "spy" or a "communist".

It is illustrated by the facts that such a person as Kim Tae-chung who was charged with involvement in the "case of the plot of rebellion" was branded as anticommunist" and, earlier, ex-president Yun Po-son, who was referred to a trial on the charge of the involvement in the "case of the declaration for democracy and national salvation," was also labelled as a "communist."

The violation of human rights is the mode of activities and source of life of the SPB engaged in plots and fabrications.

The crooked hands of the SPB for human rights abuses reach not only all parts of South Korea but also the Korean community overseas.

The SPB's violation of human rights takes the form of intimidation, physical and mental torture, kidnapping, murder, etc.

What is most universal in the SPB's human rights abuses is torture.

Sex torture imposed on women is one of the most unbearable among the physical tortures. The "campus spy ring case" in 1975 was a case faked up on the basis of false confessions wrested by sex torture.

Murder is the worst type of the SPB's human rights violation and it is the culmination of its cruelty.

The murder of Prof. Choe Chong-kil of the Law college of Seoul National University is one of its examples.

In October 1973 agents of the CIA threw him into his death from the seventh floor of a building because he encouraged the students' reunification movement and announced that he committed "suicide". Then, they faked up another "case of an operative team for communization" and linked his name to the "case".

The SPB, the heinous enemy of reunification, will surely have to pay dearly for its thrice-cursed crimes before the 70 million fellow countrymen.

South Korea

Minister Sees Little Change if Clinton Elected

SK2310035892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0126 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Choe Se-chang predicted that there could be a certain amount of impact on the Korea-U.S. security arrangement if Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton is elected U.S. president in November.

Testifying before the National Assembly's National Defense Committee Thursday, Choe noted that Clinton has been promising the American people that his administration would reduce more defense outlays and cut the number of troops and bases than proposed by incumbent President George Bush.

Choe said, however, he did not believe that there would be any basic change in the U.S. policy on the Asia-Pacific region based on the Nunn-Warner Amendment.

Moreover, Clinton himself has reiterated that the United States is determined to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and that his government would maintain the U.S. military presence in South Korea as long as there were North Korean threats, Choe said.

In view of this policy enunciated in the Democratic Party's platform, there will not be a basic change in the U.S.-South Korean security arrangements, Choe said.

Nevertheless, Choe said that the government will have to be ready to work out measures since he could not rule out the possibility of the Clinton administration making a partial readjustment to the U.S. policy toward South Korea.

Asked by Kim Tae-chung, leader of the Democratic Party, to comment on Japan's nuclear policy, Choe said that although Japan has high potential capacity for a nuclear arms program, it would not carry out such a program in secret right now since it still is under the U.S. nuclear umbrella and professing to keep its non-nuclear policy.

Choe was asked whether the United States did not violate its agreement with South Korea when it used some of the funds South Korea paid as U.S. troops maintenance expenses to repair military aircraft stationed in Okinawa.

The defense minister said the agreement only specifies the amount South Korea would pay. It is up to the U.S. side how to use the money, Choe said.

South Korea has agreed to pay 22.9 billion won from 1990 to 1992 for repairs of military equipment which include F-15, CH-53 and other aircraft based in Okinawa. These aircraft are carrying out special strategic duty for South Korea, Choe said.

Defense Funds Said Used for Aircraft in Okinawa

SK2210134892 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 22 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] It has been revealed that 19.7 billion won of defense expenditures for the U.S. Forces in the ROK which the ROK Government aggregated to the U.S. in accordance with the ROK-U.S. annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) agreement has been used anomalously for U.S. Forces in Okinawa instead of the U.S. Forces in the ROK over the last three years.

During the Defense Ministry's parliamentary investigation, Democratic Party lawmaker Kwon No-kap said that the ROK Government paid a total of 22.9 billion won ($38.25 million) over the three- year period from 1990 to 1992 as a support fund for the maintenance of aircraft according to the ROK share of defense spending for the U.S. Forces in the ROK. He said that of this amount, only 3.2 billion won, 14 percent of the total amount, was used for the support of aircraft maintenance of the U.S. Forces deployed in the ROK territory, and that 19.7 billion won, the remaining 86 percent of the total amount, was used to support the maintenance of the F- 5's and CH-53's deployed in Okinawa. He then called for an immediate rectification of this practice.

Lawmaker Kwon also said that the Defense Ministry claims that this does not constitute a problem because the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed between the director of the logistics bureau of the Defense Ministry and the assistant chief of staff for logistics of the U.S. Forces Command in the ROK stipulates that "the fund pursuant to this agreement can be used for the maintenance of the potential U.S. military equipment to be used to assist the ROK in case of emergency in the U.S. Pacific war zone. He asserted, however, that this MOA is an unjust one and has no basis or precedent anywhere in the SCM agreement.

Lawmaker Kwon noted that in analyzing the SCM agreement, he finds that the ROK is supposed to share a certain portion of the expenses of the U.S. Forces in the ROK and that the ROK's sharing of defense spending is limited to the "expenses of the U.S. Forces in the ROK incurred in the ROK in peace time." He said that the ROK's sharing of expenses for the Okinawa-based U.S. military aircraft is totally unjustified.

U.S. Proposes ROK Take Over Security Area

SK2310050392 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] The United States has proposed that South Korea take over guard control of the U.N. Command-side [UNC] Joint Security Area (JSA) in Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) roughly 55 kilometers northwest of Seoul, Defense Minister Choe Se-chang said yesterday.

Choe told the Defense Committee of the National Assembly that the U.S. made the proposal for South Korea's takeover of the full control of the JSA by June 1993, at the 24th ROK-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) held at Washington Oct. 7-8.

The U.S.-led UNC has committed a battalion force to the JSA for its control and operation since the Korean War was brought to a halt with the conclusion of an armistice agreement July 27, 1953.

Seoul asked Washington for careful considerations on the transfer of the JSA control, keeping in mind the symbolic presence of the UNC, which should be in charge of guarding the border town of Panmunjom as long as it is in operation in South Korea.

Oct. 1, 1991, South Korea took over from the UNC the guarding control for the rear half of the UNC-side 1.6-kilometer Military Armistice Commission Headquarters Area (MACHA), referred to as MACHA-B. Control of the Collier Guard Post in the MACHA-B was automatically turned over to the South Korean Army.

The UNC continues to control the frontal half of the MACHA-A in which Ouellette Guard Post is in operation. The UNC comprises a detachment of the 2nd U.S. Infantry Division headquartered in Tongduchon.

MACHA covers the truce village of Panmunjom where meetings of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC), a supervisory arm of the Korean War ceasefire, takes place.

UNC guard over Panmunjom has served as a "trip wire" that guarantees immediate U.S. intervention in case of North Korean armed attack and as the basis for maintaining the armistice accord.

The recent proposal to turn over control of the JSA is part of the U.S. program to realign its military mission on the Korean peninsula from a leading to supporting role.

Late last year, the UNC appointed a major general of the South Korean Army as senior UNC delegate to the MAC, replacing a rear admiral of the U.S. Navy. The South Korean Army also took over control of the southern half of the Freedom Bridge spanning the Imjin River.

Minister Choe explained the U.S. stance at the 24th SCM was that the U.S. wishes to keep a considerable level of its forces stationed in South Korea in line with its policy in the Asia-Pacific region as long as South Korea wants a continued American military presence.

He also said that the U.S. was seriously considering preventive measures against development and shipment of long-range missiles and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, hinting that Seoul and Washington had in depth discussions on blocking missile development by North Korea at the recent SCM.

'Actions' Against No Tae-u in Beijing Thwarted

SK2310133592 Seoul YONHAP in English 1323 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—Several North Korean woman agents attempted to take some actions against President No Tae-u during his visit to Beijing late last month, but their attempt was thwarted due to tight security steps taken by Chinese authorities, it was belatedly learned Friday.

"During President No's visit, five highly trained North Korean woman agents were staying at North Korean restaurants in Beijing disguised as waitresses, and the Chinese authorities, learning about it, made unusually tight security measures for the visiting president," a government source said.

The source said that one of the five agents was found to have been trained at the Yongsong District guest house, a training facility controlled by Kumsong Political and Military College where Kim Hyon-hui who bombed KAL Flight 858 in 1987 was trained.

Four of the five agents, he said, were "waitresses" of a restaurant and the fifth "worked" at a "karaoke" tavern, "Kumkangwon," run by North Korea on the third floor of the China World Hotel where the South Korean Embassy in China is located.

"We understand that U.S. intelligence authorities first detected their existence and informed Chinese public security authorities about them," the source said.

This was why, he said, China took unusually tight security steps for the president, posting security troops at every 30 meters interval along streets. "During No's visit to the Forbidden City and the Great Wall, China completely kept other would-be visitors from approaching," he said.

The source added that he understands the Chinese Government cautioned North Korea about it through a diplomatic channel, and plans to lodge a protest when Kim Il-song or other ranking North Korean officials visit Beijing.

Tourism Corporation To Establish Beijing Branch

SK2210085792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0802 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—The Korea National Tourism Corp. (KNTC) will set up a branch in Beijing in the latter half of next year and will seek to establish a Korea-China tourism promotion council to expand exchange of tourists between the two countries, a KNTC spokesman said Thursday.

The spokesman said KNTC will set aside the cost for the branch in next year's budget after conducting an on-the-spot survey this year.

The opening of the Beijing branch, manned by three to four officials, will raise the number of KNTC's overseas operations to 19.

As for the bilateral council for tourism exchange, the KNTC plans to launch it sometime next year in cooperation with the national tourism administration of China, the spokesman said.

KNTC is negotiating with the national tourism administration and tourism association of China on business proceedings, he said. The council will be similar in nature to the South Korea-Taiwan council of tourism agents, he added.

The Korea Tourist Association, the Korea Association of Tourism Agents and the China Tourism Association will convene the council annually alternating Beijing and Seoul, he said.

A total of 24,000 South Koreans visited China in January-August and 54,000 Chinese visited South Korea in the same months.

JCS Calls for Expanded Military Ties With Japan

SK2210060692 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 22 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] On 21 October, the National Defense Committee of the National Assembly conducted an investigation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff [JCS]. Asked by lawmaker Kang Chang-song (Democratic Party) about what is the plan for military cooperation with Japan, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Yi Pil-sop said: "Current restricted military exchanges and cooperative relations between the ROK and Japan will be expanded not only to the mutual exchanges of high-ranking and working-level military officials but also to the exchange of military training." He added: "Foundation for regional stability will be laid between the two countries by promoting the development of military relations, including mutual vessel visits and joint military exercises."

North Said Stockpiling Biochemical Weapons

SK2310045192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0410 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea has manufactured and stored biochemical weapons of mass destructive power since the late 1960s and is believed to have set up strategies to use them, the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) said Friday.

North Korea began to develop biochemical weapons in late 1960s upon the order of President Kim Il-song and has cultured 13 kinds of bacteria including yersinia pestis, bacillus anthracis, vibrio cholera 01, salmonella typhi, and clostridium botulinum since the 1980s, NSP said in its report to the National Assembly National Defense Committee.

"Only 1.8 grams of yersinia pestis and 4 grams of clostridium botulinum may exterminate the entire population in South Korea," NSP said.

North Korea is capable of producing as much as 200 tons of agar-agar, the medium nurturing the bacteria, annually, and its chemical factories in Sunchon and Aoji may specialize in the production of biological weapons at wartime. Ryongsong and Haesan beer plants may also turn out such weapons, NSP said.

The agency said biological weapons could be used for a variety of purposes because they are light and easy to carry. They can be used with missiles, trench mortars, An-2 aircraft, helicopters and hand grenades. The weapons may be the choice of spies and guerrillas.

The biochemical weapons can be used even during the peacetime because they are effective in disrupting the public sentiment or assassinate specific figures or residents of an area en masse, NSP said.

North Korea began to manufacture some chemical agents from the early 1970s and to produce in large quantity cyanic chloride, picric chloride, phenol chloride and others at nine plants. The annual production capacity is around 5,000 tons, NSP said.

Some 1,000 tons of the chemical agents are kept at six storages across the country, it added.

North Korea conducted 630 exercises for chemical warfare during 1980-91. In the 1970s, only a score of drills were conducted in the 1970s but the number increased to more than 100 recently, NSP said.

There are two regiments under the general staff of the North Korean People's Army.

The North also has more than 1,000 poison-counteracting vehicles and 500 detection mobiles and anti-gas masks have been distributed not only to the military but also to most of the ordinary people, NSP said.

North Korea, if it strikes South Korea in a desperate effort to maintain its system, is believed to mobilize chemical weapons to break through the frontline in a short while, the agency said.

It said North Korea would utilize chemical weapons as the most effective card in mounting political and psychological threats to South Korea.

N-S Military Hotline Set for Operation

SK2210122192 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 22 Oct 92 p 1

[Text] A military hotline between the South's defense minister and the North's minister of the People's Armed Forces will be installed and begin operation on 6 November.

Defense Minister Choe Se-chang said on 22 October that to bring an end to the military confrontation between the North and the South and to prepare for peaceful coexistence, a hotline between the military persons in authority of the North and the South will be installed and go into operation in Seoul and Pyongyang on 6 November.

Minister Choe said this in his briefing during the Defense Ministry's parliamentary investigation on 22 October. He added that working talks of five communications delegates each from the North and the South for the installation and operation of the hotline will be held in Panmunjom on 28 October.

At the eighth North-South high-level talks held in Pyongyang on 17 September, North and South Korea concluded and effectuated the annexed agreement on nonaggression consisting of 19 clauses stipulating the installation and operation of a military hotline, on not using armed force, and on not waging aggression, etc. According to this agreement, the hotline will be installed and begin operation within 50 days of the agreement's effectuation.

North Favors Trade Deals Over Direct Investment

SK2310092292 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] It was learned that although domestic business wants joint ventures, North Korea prefers South Korean advancement into North Korea in the following manner: South Korea would supply raw materials to North Korea. North Korea would make them into finished products and deliver the finished products to South Korea. In return, South Korea pays wages to North Korea as specified in the agreement for such a processing arrangement.

A government official revealed: "We understand that North Korean Foreign Trade Minister Kim Tal-hyon suggested to South Korean businessmen, who had visited Nampo concerning direct investment from 6 to 9 October, that they promote the aforementioned processing trade arrangement rather than direct investment."

This person said: "I understand that North Korea made the suggestion which can be immediately realized because it in fact finds many difficulties in pushing ahead with direct investment." He predicted: "If North Korea desires the processing trade, the investments in the North are more likely to be made in a dualistic manner: First, investment in the special economic region; second, investment in the processing trade.

The business circles predicted: "North Korea recently adopted the Foreigners' Investment Law and will induce advanced technologies in the form of joint ventures in the free economic trade zone or special economic region, while it will try to introduce capital from overseas mainly through trade, including processing trade, in other economic regions.

North Urged To Introduce Openness, Reform

SK2310043892 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 22 Oct 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The North Should Implement Reform Before Seeking Joint Venture"]

[Text] North Korea has legislated a law on foreigners' investment in North Korea. On 21 October, it announced the "Foreigners' Investment Law of Korea," which is similar to the foreign capital inducement law of capitalist countries. Although the law is applicable only to free economic and trade zones, with provisions allowing 100 percent foreign investment, it is considered to be a more progressive law compared to the Joint Venture Law which failed to produce desired results owing to its vague contents.

It seems that North Korea is trying hard to overcome its reportedly serious economic difficulties through the inducement of foreign brainpower, technology, and capital. Irrespective of North Korea's intent and purpose, however, we welcome the announcement of the law because it means that North Korea is opening up its economy and labor, though in a very restricted degree, to foreign countries including the ROK.

The inducement of foreign investment is aimed mainly at developing the economy of the host country through the introduction of foreign capital, brainpower, and technology as well as obtaining compensation for the supply of local labor. Needless to say, to fulfill this objective, the host country should, above all, provide an environment that will attract foreign investors to invest easily.

The "Foreigners' Investment Law of Korea" legislated and announced by North Korea is designed to fulfill such a condition. However, the law itself is not enough to bring about desired results. In 1984, North Korea introduced the so-called Joint Venture Law for the inducement of foreign investment, to little success. Only 140 joint ventures were formed as of 1992, and 60 percent of these were joint ventures with the Korean resident businessmen in Japan belonging to the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [a pro-DPRK group]. The Foreigners' Investment Law supplemented and augmented the Joint Venture Law.

Why did the Joint Venture Law fail? North Korea should honestly analyze the main cause behind the failure. It should make an analysis which is objective and scientific, rather than hopeful and subjective. The Joint Venture Law itself was thought to have some problems, but the more important problem was the insufficient environment for the operation of the law. North Korea should not overlook the fact that it failed to provide the conditions necessary for the implementation of the law.

Then what are these conditions? We think that one of them is the credibility of North Korea. For instance, North Korea refused to pay back its foreign debt. Moreover, it did not even pretend to make efforts to reimburse it. This attitude which North Korea took had to cause fatal damage to the credibility of North Korea. North Korea wishes to induce investment from the United States, Japan, and Europe, but stubbornly rejects openness and reform. North Korea should not forget the fact that foreigners invest in North Korea not for North Korea but for themselves.

North Korea should first begin by making efforts to restore its credibility. Boldly undertaking full-fledged openness and reform will be the surest, most effective way to restore credibility. We understand that North Korea envies China's success and is trying to imitate it. But what is the secret of China's success? Needless to say, China ventured to implement bold openness and reform under the leadership of the Communist Party. North Korea should venture into introducing openness and reform if it wishes to obtain the same fruits of success as China.

Economic development in North Korea is impossible in the closed society they retain which blocks citizens' eyes, ears, and mouths and ties up their legs. Who will trust such a country? Obviously North Korea was cautious in writing up the Foreigners' Investment Law to prevent the trend of openness and reform from overflowing. As long as North Korea maintains this attitude, the Foreigners' Investment Law will follow the fate of the failed Joint Venture Law. North Korea seems to be overly unconfident. Why is North Korea unable to do what China is able to do?

Better Economic Growth in 1993 Predicted

SK2210033192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 22 Oct 92 p 9

[Text] Korea will see a recovery in exports next year, fueled by stable economic growth both at home and abroad, trade expansion and strength of the Japanese yen, according to a report by the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) yesterday.

KFTA painted a bright picture as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast the world economy next year will grow higher than this year and is expected to recover from its recession with more than a 3 percent growth rate, up 2 percent from this year.

Especially expected economic growth in the U.S., Japan and the European Community will help Korea boost its exports to its major three markets, the report said.

A slowdown in the Middle East and Latin America will force Korea to concentrate its exports on industrialized countries and the Asian region.

The KFTA report said that continued economic growth and rising demand for imports in the U.S. and the won's depreciation against the U.S. dollar will create favorable conditions for boosting exports.

Korea can hike exports in the EC due to its stable economic growth and trade expansion although the EC has suffered currency instability.

Japan's export slowdown and strong yen is also good news for Korean exporters to gain footholds in some Japanese-dominated overseas markets.

But China is expected to clash with Korea in light industry products since Beijing has induced foreign capital and achieved success in the industry.

And Korea continues to face competition with the newly industrialized countries (NICs) such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

Over 1,100 Officials Punished for Misdeeds

SK2210084892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0752 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 22 (YONHAP)—A total of 1,114 officials of the Home Affairs Ministry and local autonmous governments under its jurisdiction were punished as of Sept. 31 in connection with irregularities, including graft and embezzlement, the ministry said Thursday.

The Seoul City Government is not under the umbrella of the Home Affairs Ministry.

The ministry, in a report to the National Assembly, said that irregularities committed by 874 officials were detected by intra- ministerial inspections and those by 240 others were uncovered by outside auditors.

The sum breaks down to one third-grade (deputy director-general level) official, 12 fourth-grade (section chief), 150 fifth-grade (sub-section chief), and 951 officials in the sixth grade and lower.

By type of irregularity, those who wrongfully handled works topped the list with 605, followed by other mistakes with 358, negligence with 23 and embezzlement or misuse of public money with 16.

However, only one official was connected with taking bribes.

By region, Kyonggi Province led the group with 288 officials, followed by South Kyongsang Province with 123, North Kyongsang Province with 102, South Cholla Province with 81, Pusan with 79, Inchon and South Chungchong Province with 76 each, North Chungchong Province with 54 and North Cholla Province with 50.

The remaining regions stood at fewer than 50.

Most of the officials were reprimanded or received pay cuts, but 32 were fired, 55 dismissed and 42 suspended from office, the report showed.

Assembly Audits National Unification Board

SK2310035992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0154 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—National Unification Board Minister Choe Yong-chol said Thursday that his ministry was being assisted by the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] for its organizations and information gathering capability.

The NSP's assistance should be continued, Choe said.

He made the remarks when asked, during a parliamentary inspection of his ministry, by Rep. Yi Pu-yong of the Democratic Party whether the Unification Board had plans to upgrade its status in the course of making unification policy.

Rep. Yi claimed that the Unification Board had failed to control and coordinate the unification policy on its own initiative due to "excessive intervention" by the NSP.

Choe also said that the government had kept consistency in its unification policy though it might seem to lack consistency because of the basically double-faced inter-Korean relations.

The South's unswerving principle that no real progress could be made without a solution to North Korea's nuclear issue could be an example for the South Korean Government's coherent unification policy, he stressed.

Reps. An Mu-hyok and Yi Se-ki of the Democratic Liberal Party asked Choe to present a blueprint of unification policy, saying that the inconsistent unification policy of the government increases confusion among the people.

DLP Plans To Shorten Military Service Period

SK2310050592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0402 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] plans to shorten the active military service period from the current 30 months to 24 months by 1994 and offer it as its presidential campaign pledge, a party official said Friday.

The party will also consider further cutting the period of active military service on a gradual basis in close consultations with the Defense Ministry keeping an eye on demand and supply of military manpower and security environments, said Kang Yong-sik, director of the party first policy coordination office.

In addition, the party will present a "revolutionary defense policy" in its election platform which would allow the enrollment of women in the three military academies and in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. (ROTC).

In a related development, the party will make an election promise to map out a program to relocate military facilities and installations in 19 cities including Seoul and Pusan to suburbs by the middle of the decade in a bid to help facilitate urban development.

'New Korea Party' Holds Rally To Launch Party

SK2310064992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0610 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 23 (YONHAP)—Some 500 promoters on Friday launched a new political party, tentatively named "the New Korea Party," and named former National Assembly Speaker Chae Mun-sik as chairman of the party preparatory committee.

At a rally held at the Korea Exhibition Center (KOEX) in Seoul, the promoters said that they would form a new political force to realize political reforms and national reconciliation.

They said their party will carry out the goal by combining administrative experience of former government leaders and will of former opposition politicians to work for reforms.

The New Korea Party would also strive to realize responsible politics, strong economy, healthy society, national reunification and administrative reforms, they said.

The promoters decided to form the party organizing preparatory committee comprising about 30 members including some lawmakers and register the party with the central election management committee before establishing party constitution, rules and platform.

The new party will set up more than 48 local chapters, the mimimum number required to form a political party, name chapter chiefs by the end of this month and complete organizing procedures after holding a founding rally of the central chapter in Seoul on Nov. 5.

Burma

Laotian Delegation Calls on General Than Shwe

BK2310024892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received General Sisavat Keobounphan, Laotian minister of agriculture and forestry, and his delegation at 0930 today at the Dagon House of the Ministry of Defense.

Present at the meeting with SLORC Chairman Gen. Than Shwe were Major General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; Maj. Gen. Myint Aung, minister of agriculture and member of SLORC; U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department.

Also present at the meeting with the visiting minister and his delegation was Mr. Kideng Thammavong, Laotian ambassador to Myanmar. The two sides discussed bilateral cooperation and matters of mutual interest.

Calls on Deputy Prime Minister

BK2310025492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] A Lao People's Democratic Republic delegation led by General Sisavat Keobounphan, minister of agriculture and forestry, who is currently in Yangon [Rangoon] on a goodwill visit, and accompanied by Laotian ambassador Mr. Kideng Thammavong, called on Lieutenant General Tin Tun, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and deputy prime minister, at the Office of Ministers at 1030 today.

The two sides held cordial and frank discussions on bilateral economic cooperation; the study of scientific methods and techniques of agriculture and livestock breeding and world standard teak forestry and reserve forests technology employed in Myanmar [Burma]; sending Lao scholars to Myanmar; and matters related to exports.

Paper Views Army Statesmanship, Party Pettiness

BK1810143692 Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 10 Oct 92 p 3

[Article by Mya Win: "Difference Between National Politics and Party Politics"]

[Text] National politics aims at achieving aspirations of the whole nation. Party politics aims at attainment of power by a party by defeating rival parties. National politics is a matter of prime importance for a nation. Political parties of a nation therefore usually espouse national politics but they first try to secure power for their own party and only after that engage in national politics.

A re-examination of political developments of 1948 will disclose that partisan struggles for power trampled upon and obliterated the national cause and pushed the country to the brink of disaster. And this should be taken as a lesson.

Myanmar [Burma] politics at that time was embroiled in struggles for power. Each political bloc professed its own political objectives although the national objective was that of establishment of a socialist society. In reality, a state constitution is a symbol of a just and fair social system. The constitution is a legal framework upon which a free and just society is to be built up. It is a legal mechanism for correcting all injustices and unfairness that might have occurred. The essence of democracy, likewise, is to expose and eliminate all forms of injustice and to build up justice and fairness. But when partisan power struggles escalated to the stage of armed violence, the principle of justice and fairness just vanished. The constitution was turned into a piece of paper.

Political theories that dominated the post-war world recognized socialism to be the best model of a just society. There were several shades in socialism. Trying to build socialism within the framework of multi-party parliamentary democracy Myanmar politicians attempted in those days was believed by many to have been of a "moderate" line. [sentence as published] Such socialists showed themselves as members of the socialist party. On their left were those believers in the dictatorship of the proletariat and on their right stood several rightist blocs. On the extreme right were believers in narrow racist ideas.

Myanmar had a glut in weapons in those days. The British withdrew leaving behind a surfeit of weapons of war. The Japanese brought in more. The British returned bringing with them huge arsenals. The newly independent Myanmar was littered with ordnance and military stores.

Arms became a feature from the very beginning of the struggles for power. Communists built up an army of their own to rival the tatmadaw. Diverse political parties built up their respective pocket armies. Radical racists built their own armed organizations. Armed party politics eventually headed towards political assassinations. Confrontations developed all around. The attempt on U Saw's life, the dastardly assassination of Bogyoke Aung San and his cabinet colleagues, Communist bids to wipe out Socialists, Socialists' proclamation that "the grave of a Communist is where he is found," and the bid of a national race to win over other national races and take over power in Yangon [Rangoon]... all these happened at the same time. Political parties decided to pursue their partisan objectives only after doing away with their rival parties. National objectives disappeared.

In reality, the national objective of the weal of all the peoples is attainable only through efforts of the whole nation. Political parties engaged as they were in all-round confrontations had thus effectively obliterated any possibility of achieving the national objective through national effort. They had erased the national objective and kindled a fire of civil war.

At that time only the tatmadaw cherished the national objective. The concept of the tatmadaw then was freedom first, democracy second, and socialism third. The tatmadaw strove to unify the whole nation within the framework of democracy. Even in launching military operations against communists and racist insurgents the tatmadaw confined itself to waging a just war always keeping at heart the possibility of an eventual reconciliation. The tatmadaw suppressed the fashion of political assassinations. An escalation of political assassinations would surely have choked Myanmar politics. National reunification hampered by such antagonisms would be an impossibility. All of this would eventually have obliterated the whole nation.

The tatmadaw that had always protected, defended, and cherished genuine national interests went on combating a full range of armed organizations in the process of which it gained hardened maturity. Those who uphold the truth invariably emerge as victors.

In those days the tatmadaw was the only national force with a capacity to rescue the nation. Towards the end of 1951 and at the beginning of 1952 the leader of the tatmadaw took over the portfolio of home, defense, and deputy prime minister and brought the nation back on to the track towards the national objective.

Today, party politics and national politics are developing side by side. Political parties are striving to gain power in their respective spheres. National organizations have set their sights at achieving regional power. Present day concepts relating to constituent states and the main territory are identical to concepts that prevailed in 1947 when the first constitution was drafted. Armed insurgents are pressing their demand for regional power. Political parties in the main territory are espousing diverse ideologies. Foreign interference is manifested everywhere. Even aliens are demanding a state.

A war of attrition is waged from all sides against the tatmadaw, the bulwark of the nation. The common aim of all parties is a multiparty democracy. They say they are united in this aim. The solution does not however lie, as it lay in 1947-48, in the multiparty parliamentary democracy system. Today's national objective is reunification of the whole nation. The multiparty parliamentary democracy system had already been resorted to as a solution in 1948. But then, for lack of national unity, the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League itself collapsed.

Today is the time for reunifying the nation on the basis of a new constitution. Had any one political party ever tried to unify the nation in the past fifty years? Only the tatmadaw possesses a tradition of constantly trying to reunify the nation.

The tatmadaw alone possesses a tradition, a mature experience, and the required strength to pursue this national objective. The tatmadaw must therefore definitely take the leading role in trying to achieve the national objective. Otherwise, the national objective would once again disappear and the 1948 situations return.

Nobody can dispute the fact that insurgents remain divided today as a result of the process of political developments of 1947-48. Efforts must therefore be made to prevent a recurrence of 1947 conditions and to march on towards the national objective.

SLORC Releases 107 Detainees 23 Oct

BK2310143692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] It has been learned that 107 male detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released today from Henzada Jail after their remaining sentences were commuted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council.

Total of 55 Insurgents Said To Surrender in Sep

BK2310030092 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Members of various terrorist terrorist-insurgent organizations have been surrendering continuously at various military camps with their arms and ammunition after realizing that their destructive activities are not productive for the country and the national people.

It has been learned that 20 terrorist-insurgents surrendered between 20 and 29 September and that a total of 55 terrorist insurgents who surrendered during September were warmly welcomed by the military camps concerned.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Asks Burma To Improve Rights Practices

BK2210011592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0351 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Oct 21 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has asked Myanmar [Burma] to draw up a programme of action on how it intends to improve its human rights record.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he had informed his Myanmar counterpart Ohn Gyaw on the need for military regime in Yangon [Rangoon] to demonstrate its seriousness in improving the situation there.

Abdullah said he was told the regime intended to hold a convention to draft a new constitution.

"But they must indicate to they international community when the convention is to be held," he said at parliament house.

Talks have reportedly been held between the regime and representatives of some political parties, which centred on its proposed national convention rather than an attempt to convene the elected National Assembly.

Abdullah said he had talks with Ohn in New York last month when the two attended the 47th United Nations General Assembly session.

The decision to hold the informal meeting was made by ASEAN ministers during the ASEAN ministerial meeting in Manila a few months ago.

Abdullah also said the several seemingly liberal concessions announce by the regime were insufficient.

He emphasised that it was not Malaysia's intention to interfere in the domestic affairs of Myanmar, but urged the regime "to do a little more" as ASEAN was concerned over the situation there.

Singapore

Government To Help Vietnam Integrate With ASEAN

BK2210114792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Oct 92 p 2

[By Tan Lian Choo]

[Text] Hanoi—Singapore Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng yesterday wound up a three-day official visit here by pledging to reinforce fastgrowing bilateral ties and facilitate Vietnam's integration with the rest of Southeast Asia.

Said Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh, with whom Mr. Wong held 50 minutes of talks yesterday: "After this visit, I am confident relations between Vietnam and Singapore will be enhanced because both countries have the potential for close relations and cooperation. Both sides need to make the effort to mobilise and accelerate this."

Later, at a joint press conference, Mr. Wong and his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, both noted with satisfaction the rapid pace at which the two nations developed their relations over the past 10 months.

After forging air services and maritime agreements, the two countries will sign an Investments Guarantee Agreement at the end of this month, followed by a double taxation avoidance pact.

Singapore will help Vietnam develop through the US$10 million (S$16 million) Indochina Assistance Fund.

"We will not be funding projects but training people to run such projects. That's what we have learnt from others—we know the importance of human resource development—and so we have offered this help to train Vietnamese in specific areas where we have the expertise," said Mr. Wong.

He noted that the fast pace of growing bilateral ties reflected the desire of Hanoi and ASEAN to get Vietnam integrated fully with countries in South-east Asia.

He said this could bring about the peace and stability necessary for the region's prosperity.

Mr. Wong reaffirmed that Singapore, current chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee, would welcome Vietnam to take part in more ASEAN-sponsored activities.

As Vietnam acceded to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Co-operation and is now an observer, it can take advantage of ASEAN-sponsored projects in social, cultural, scientific and technical fields.

Mr. Cam said that while it was too early for Vietnam to consider participating in the ASEAN Free Trade Area, Hanoi's observer status could help it adjust to such a position later.

It was also premature for Vietnam to talk about joining the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum as the 15- member group had decided to consolidate itself and not admit any new members for the time being.

A key factor for any new member would be the extent of its economic links with existing Apec members, said Mr. Wong.

The two foreign ministers also touched on the disputed Spratly islands, an archipelago claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

They expressed the hope that the issue would be resolved peacefully.

Before leaving for home, Mr. Wong told Singapore journalists that his talks here had been "very successful", and that both sides were pleased.

He said he would convey Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet's invitation to Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong to visit Vietnam.

While in Vietnam, Mr. Wong also met privately with Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, the former Foreign Minister known for his vitriolic attacks on ASEAN when it spearheaded an international effort to condemn Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge's 13-14 Oct 'Savage' Attacks Noted

BK1910150192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 19 Oct 92

["News flash"]

[Text] It is nearly a year since the Paris agreement on the Cambodian problem, which was signed by the four warring Cambodian factions, including the Khmer Rouge, has been implemented. During this period, the international community has made every effort to achieve the plans stipulated in the agreement. Three parties, particularly the State of Cambodia, have actively and firmly implemented each phase and made successive concessions. They have been patient and endured all actions contrary to the agreement which are caused by that one party, that of the Khmer Rouge.

It is known that the Khmer Rouge side has not shown any intention to advance the peace process in Cambodia without raising obstacles. On the contrary, this side has made efforts to block the process by raising this or that issue as pretexts; this is unreasonable. In the military field, the Khmer Rouge not only have not respected the agreement but have even intensified their brutal and most savage activities. They continue to daily rob and attack various positions of the Cambodian People's Army and the villages of innocent Cambodian people. More serious still, they have made efforts to expand their territory and have transported a lot of ammunition to hide inside the country with the aim of serving a clear ambition.

A concrete incident, which should be strongly condemned, is that on Tuesday, 13 October at 2330, between 100 and 150 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Regiment 550 of Division 785 with (Kong) as commander barbarously raided four villages—(Tatav), Tang Kouk, (Koyoung), and Pongro—in Baray District, Kompong Thom Province; and two more villages—Batheay and (Ta Prok)—in Kompong Cham Province. Many innocent and peace-loving people were killed or wounded in this incident; a lot of material and property were also lost.

According to the report by our correspondent there, the Khmer Rouge killed eight people, including two policemen; and wounded 26 people, including children and elderly persons. Furthermore, these cruel soldiers burnt down two bridges; one is the bridge marking the border between Kompong Thom and Kompong Cham Provinces on National Route 6 in Tang Kouk (?Village); and the other on the segment of National Route 21 in (Ta Prok) Village in Kompong Cham Province. They also burnt down a police post, two militia posts, and robbed over 1,720,000 riel, 23 chi [weight measure equivalent to about 3.75 gram] of gold, five tape recorders, two television sets; two (?videos), eight bicycles, a motorcycle, [words indistinct], three wrist watches; and a lot of utensils.

Is this how the Khmer Rouge intends to show that they love the people and want peace for their motherland while other parties are working to overcome and end the Cambodian people's poverty along with the international community's efforts to obliterate the traces of destruction, (?tragedy), and separation caused by the more-than-20-year war?

Akashi Returns From UN Security Council Meeting

BK1510071492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414 GMT 15 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK October 15—The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, returned Wednesday saying he was happy with the resolution passed by the U.N. Security Council in New York affirming that elections will be held here in May 1993, reports AFP [Agence France-Presse].

"I am completely satisfied," Akashi told reporters at the airport. "We prepared the ground for further action."

The resolution passed Tuesday gives Thai and Japanese negotiators until the end of the month to try to bring the Khmer Rouge into line with the Paris peace agreements ending the civil war.

So far the faction has refused to lay down its weapons and go along with U.N. peacekeepers, claiming that the United Nations is not correctly implementing the peace accords.

If the Khmer Rouge do not come around by November 15, the Security Council voted to take unspecified " further steps," which are thought to include sanctions against the radical faction.

"I think the attitude is we'll not exclude anybody. We'll keep our door open," Akashi said. " At the same time we have a timetable to fulfil and the decision is that we should go ahead with free and fair elections in Cambodia by May next year at the latest."

Analysts View Khmer Rouge Strength

BK1710052492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0403 GMT 17 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK October 17—The Khmer Rouge's demolition of two key bridges in central Cambodia shows they refuse to be left out of a peace process that is threatening to go on without them, AFP quoted analysts here as saying.

Just as the U.N. Security Council resolved Tuesday in New York to hold Cambodia's national elections next year without them if they don't cooperate, the radical guerrilla faction was planting explosives on a crucial link between the capital and the northern provinces.

The explosions on that bridge, and at a second one 20 kilometers (12 miles) away, have cut off the northern provinces from Phnom Penh for at least a week while Chinese engineers serving with the U.N. peacekeeping operation fix them, the U.N. Force Commander Lieutenant General John Sanderson said.

Sanderson's often-repeated position in recent months has been that Khmer Rouge forces are losing strength as their ranks grow tired of fighting and want to defect.

But their substantial taking of territory in northern provinces such as Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear—where they have nearly doubled their area of control since U.N. peacekeepers arrived—shows anything but a weakening of their forces.

In addition, the United Nations said it had found the bodies of 10 ethnic Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia who were killed after being abducted by Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The faction has repeatedly called for Vietnamese force to be expelled from Cambodia, and says troops are posing as civilians among the hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia.

Diplomats said the guerrilla warfare-type tactics were probably the first of many in a destabilizing campaign aimed at getting concessions of power from the United Nations.

"This is a clear indication they won't let the elections go easily", said one Asian ambassador, who feared U.N. personnel could be the next targets.

"This is a clear signal to the Security Council, a clear sign it is war and nothing else", he said.

But a Western diplomat was more cautious, saying "we'd have to see a lot more" attacks before establishing a pattern, but that the demolitions were almost certainly ordered from the highest levels of command.

Khmer Rouge Leader on Preserving State Property

BK2310051192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Oct 92

["View" of Khieu Samphan on the preservation of public and state properties at the Supreme National Council meeting on 20 October—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. On the issue of preserving public property, His Excellency [H.E.] Akashi has raised the issue of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] control over a party printing bank notes. I would like to ask H.E. Akashi and UNTAC as well as the country signatories to the Paris accord to examine the following questions: Does a party that is a member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] have the right to print bank notes? And, is it in conformity with the Paris accord if a party is allowed to print such bank notes? On these questions, H.E. Akashi has acknowledged that throughout the transitional period only two authorities, namely UNTAC and the SNC, should exist but no other government. Therefore, if we are loyal to the Paris agreement, then what we should do is warn the Phnom Penh faction that it should respect the Paris accord but not control its printing of bank notes.

2. On the issue of preserving state property, I would like to raise another issue that causes concern and worry in the overwhelming majority of the Cambodian people because the Vietnamese-installed regime in Phnom Penh has sold public and state property on a massive scale. I raised this issue before at the SNC meeting on 23 July 1992 because the regime shored up by the Vietnamese sold state property such as houses or buildings to line its own pockets or to politically, administratively, and militarily reinforce the regime, especially its secret police. This issue has made the people in Phnom Penh and in the rest of the country furious because these sales do not only take place in Phnom Penh but also in the provinces. International newspapers have reported on the situation as well. Among the buildings or state property, those with special characteristics should be preserved as the national patrimony.

The sale of the public and state properties will seriously affect the reconstruction of the country in the future and in generations to come. It will also create complications for a future Cambodian government. That being the case, urgent measures should be taken in order to put an end to the criminal activities and to reclaim state property. We are of the opinion that UNTAC and the SNC, which are the sole legitimate organizations and sources of authority in Cambodia, are duty-bound to jointly introduce measures to manage and control state property throughout the transition.

In view of the aforementioned reasons and in the spirit of preserving public and state properties, I ask that a special committee be set up within the SNC to take care of the issue, then present a report to UNTAC and the SNC so as to enable them to take urgent and appropriate measures.

Khieu Samphan Speaks at 20 Oct SNC Meeting

BK2310043592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Oct 92

["Remarks" by Khieu Samphan at Supreme National Council meeting on 20 October; read by announcer]

[Text] My respects to the prince head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. At present, there is an accusation that Democratic Kampuchea [DK] neither implements the Paris accord nor enters phase two of the cease-fire. There is also talk about organizing elections without the participation of

Democratic Kampuchea, which is a signatory to the Paris accord. That being the case, it is necessary to find out whether the accusation and the plan to organize the elections without DK participation are in agreement with the essence and spirit of the 23 October 1991 Paris accord.

I. It is worth noting that a year after signing the Paris accord, the following two important provisions have not yet been implemented:

1. Article 8 on the verification of the withdrawal of foreign forces, meaning the Vietnamese aggressor forces, from Cambodia and their nonreturn has not yet been effected; and

2. Article 3 on the SNC as the sole legitimate organization and source of authority in Cambodia has yet to be applied.

Given this situation, is the accusation against the DK correct that it is violating the accord and refusing to enter the second phase of the cease-fire? Have the clauses of the Paris accord already been fully implemented? The general public is aware that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] has repeatedly demanded at SNC meetings, in its letters to Their Excellencies Akashi and the UN secretary general, through its radio broadcasts, at news conferences, and in its consecutive proposals—including the latest proposal dated 22 August 1992—that all the provisions of the accord be fully implemented. This includes:

1. The implementation of Article 3 stating that the SNC is the unique legitimate organization and source of authority in Cambodia during the transition; and

2. The need for UNTAC to collaborate with the SNC on:

A. Verifying the complete withdrawal of foreign forces, meaning the Vietnamese aggressor forces, from Cambodia and their nonreturn; and

B. Verifying the cantonment of the four Cambodian parties' armed forces with the aim of disarming and demobilizing them by 70 percent, then dismantling them completely in the final stage.

The general public is aware that the PDK has time and time again reaffirmed that if the 23 October 1991 Paris accord's provisions, particularly the two key clauses, are fully implemented, the PDK will agree with all sincerity to immediately enter phase two of the cease-fire.

II. Given a situation where two key provisions have not yet been executed, is the plan to organize elections without PDK participation correct and in keeping with the essence and spirit of the 23 October 1991 Paris accord? This is the issue in question. If the elections are held in such a way, what will be the result? This is another serious issue in question.

It is worth remembering that the 23 October 1991 Paris accord is an agreement on a comprehensive political settlement. To the point, the accord is an agreement for ending the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia, thereby allowing the country to achieve genuine peace, independence, and national reconciliation among all Cambodians and allowing the Cambodian people to enjoy their rights to self-determination through free, correct, and democratic elections.

To terminate the Vietnamese invasion and occupation of Cambodia, the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn must be verified. This is a condition that must be implemented without fail. Moreover, it is indisputably clear that if the SNC is not entrusted with a role, it is impossible for it to collaborate with UNTAC. Therefore, whether it likes it or not, UNTAC will, in all probability, collaborate with the Phnom Penh faction installed by the Vietnamese. Given this situation, how can the withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia be verified? It is certain that Vietnamese forces—officers, soldiers, and political and military cadres—are disguised as civilians or hidden for the purpose of propping up the Phnom Penh regime and its army and secret police. As such, elections to be organized under such conditions would only constitute a rubber stamp of Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia forever. Vietnam will then continue the flow of Vietnamese settlers into Cambodia according to its policy of Vietnamizing Cambodia, and Cambodia will be transformed before long into a new Kampuchea Kraom. Is this in line with the essence, spirit, and objective of the 23 October 1991 Paris accord?

The Cambodian people, the Cambodian patriotic forces, and the PDK cannot accept their country's becoming another Kampuchea Kraom. We reject all unfounded accusations and the PDK demands that all the provisions of the 23 October 1991 Paris accord be fully implemented. The PDK demands nothing else, and we persistently ask that our proposal dated 22 August 1992 be seriously considered.

SRV Embassy Spokesman Rejects DK Allegations

BK2110154392 Hanoi VNA in English 1525 GMT 21 Oct 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Oct. 21—A spokesman for the Vietnamese Embassy in Cambodia today issued a statement, rejecting Khmer Rouge's allegation that Vietnam has sent its troops back to Cambodia.

The statement recalled that in a press briefing in Phnom Penh on Oct. 20, 1992, Mr. Mar Benn, spokesman for Democratic Kampuchea [DK], said that Vietnam had just sent soldiers to Cambodia.

The spokesman of the Vietnamese Embassy reaffirmed that Vietnam withdrew all its troops from Cambodia in September 1989, and since then it has not sent back any troops, any military advisors nor specialists in any forms. On May 30, 1992, Vietnam officially informed the United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) of this matter, he said.

Democratic Kampuchea's continued slanders about 'the presence of the Vietnamese Army in Cambodia' is aimed to cover up the party's military intensification and terrorism to undermine the peaceful life of the Cambodian people, and to sabotage the Paris agreement, the Vietnamese spokesman stressed.

KR Said Poised for Offensive in Central Area

BK2210142892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT 22 Oct 92

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Kompong Thom, Cambodia, Oct 22 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge [KR] has poised its troops for an offensive in the strategic central Cambodian province of Kompong Thom, U.N. military observers said here Thursday.

The radical faction has moved between 700 and 1,000 guerrillas armed with B-40 rocket launchers and 80 mm mortars to within 10 kilometers (six miles) of Route 12, the province's lifeline, an Indonesian officer with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) told AFP.

The build-up along the northeast flank of Route 12 has occurred over the past few weeks. Khmer Rouge movement has also been observed in several other areas, raising fears the faction is planning coordinated attacks virtually throughout Kompong Thom, Captain An Suestiana said.

"They have been ready since the start of the month. As to when they will fire the first shot, they are waiting for instructions," he said.

Some analysts fear the order may come if diplomatic efforts to bring the Khmer Rouge back into the peace process fail and the United Nations decides to impose sanctions or go ahead with elections without the Marxist faction.

The U.N. Security Council on October 13 affirmed that the elections would take place by May and gave the Khmer Rouge until November 15 to cooperate with UNTAC.

The same night, the Khmer Rouge blew up two bridges at the southern edge of Kompong Thom Province, temporarily severing the roads from Phnom Penh, UNTAC says.

UNTAC had repaired the bridges by the middle of this week and put them under guard by Indonesian peacekeepers.

Villagers interviewed Thursday near the repaired Route Six bridge confirmed that the attack had been carried out by the Khmer Rouge, the one faction that has failed to comply with last year's peace accord.

"About 20 Khmer Rouge were outside my house. They asked for a plate so they could dig a hole to plant a mine," said a 43-year-old fisherman, whose name is being witheld.

"I recognized some of their faces, because I sometimes see them when I'm out fishing. But especially I could tell they were Khmer Rouge because they mostly carried B-40s," he said.

"I said to them, 'Don't blow up the bridge or my uncle won't be able to drive his truck to Kompong Thom tomorrow.' They said, 'You have a truck? Give us 20,000 riel (one dollar) or we'll blow it up.'"

The guerrillas, who arrived by boat, killed two villagers, he said. [words indistinct] said there was no sign that Phnom Penh forces were planning a dry-season offensive, despite claims by Khmer Rouge leaders in Phnom Penh that the offensive, spearheaded by "500 Vietnamese fresh troops," had already begun.

"They've taken only defensive positions," Suestiana said of Phnom Penh's forces, adding that the Indonesian contingent had not found any Vietnamese troops.

"We're counting on UNTAC to defend us," the provincial official said.

The Vietnamese Army drove the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge out of power in 1979 and installed the current government in Phnom Penh before withdrawing in 1989.

The Khmer Rouge cites the alleged continued presence of Vietnamese forces in Cambodia to justify its non-compliance with the peace treaty.

Meanwhile the low-intensity war contiues in Kompong Thom, the home province of notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot and a vital link between northern and southern Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge have reinforced their presence in the province since May by resettling many of their families there from refugee camps on the Thai border, according to UNTAC and provincicial officials.

Artillery fire could be heard only occasionally along the northern reaches of Route 12 on Thursday, but a Phnom Penh officer reported 150 incoming shells on Tuesday.

The same day, some 400 Khmer Rouge attacked a village in southern Kompong Thom, but pulled back after Indonesian peacekeepers walked in waving the U.N. flag, Suestiana said.

Residents of Kampong Thmar, near a bridge at the junction of Routes Six and 21 in the south, said several families had fled to Phnom Penh fearing that a Khmer Rouge attack on their village was imminent.

Foreign Minister Discusses Disarmament Freeze

OW2310103292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Oct. 23 KYODO—Phnom Penh government Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Friday reconfirmed plans for a temporary freeze on the disarmament phase of Cambodia's peace process, fearing the Khmer Rouge's refusal to demobilize may upset the military balance in the country.

In an interview with KYODO News Service, Hor Namhong said he met the head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, and agreed to the freeze.

On Wednesday, Akashi told KYODO he may consider a freeze on disarming three of the four factions involved in the Cambodian war to maintain a military balance in the country.

Akashi said that as long as the Khmer Rouge, the strongest faction of the four, refused to demobilize, he could not justify further disarmament of the other groups.

On Friday, Hor Namhong explained that the Khmer Rouge plans to expand its influence in all areas where the other three factions have been disarmed and demobilized.

Representatives of the Japanese and Thai Governments called on Khmer Rouge headquarters Thursday to present its leader Khieu Samphan with a new proposal to get the stalled peace process back on track.

Actual negotiations between the three parties is scheduled for next week but the proposal was handed over Thursday to give the Khmer Rouge a week to study it.

The proposal appears to be based on a Japanese plan offered last August to create an administrative consultative body to support and strengthen the provisional national reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council (SNC).

It also contains elements of the Khmer Rouge proposal for a consultative commission within the SNC, the sources said.

The Khmer Rouge-proposed commission would be comprised of members of the four factions in Phnom Penh's six main ministries and would be overseen and managed by the Phnom Penh government.

The proposal, however, falls outside of the 1991 Paris peace accords which forbid the formation of a coalition government prior to next May's general elections and is therefore unlikely to be accepted by UNTAC, the sources said.

The second stage of the ceasefire arrangement requires disarmament and demobilization of a total of 200,000 soldiers from all factions and has been nearly 70 percent completed.

As of October 5, some 55,000 soldiers of the three other factions, including 44,000 of the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government, had been demobilized and moved to UN-supervised camps.

Sihanouk Receives Delegation From Japanese Firm

BK2210084392 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 22 Oct (SPK)— Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state of Cambodia and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC), received in Phnom Penh Monday, 19 October, a delegation of a Japanese firm headed by Mr. Bernard Chrisher.

Mr. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, was present on that occasion.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed his pleasure at being able to receive the delegation, saying that its visit contributed to the development of the Cambodian-Japanese relations. He warmly thanked the head of the delegation for bringing aid to the Cambodian population in some provinces.

The Cambodian head of state moreover stressed the new changes in the country's economic and political fields since the signing of the Paris peace agreement.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Bernard Chrisher distributed the gift donated by the Japanese firm to inhabitants of the provinces of Prey Veng and Kompong Chhnang.

Chea Soth Chairs Local Meeting in Kandal

BK2010095992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 19 Oct 92

[Text] Recently, the Local Administration Consolidation Committee in Kandal Province held a meeting to sum up its work in the past nine months. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Soth, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee. Also attending the meeting were the ministers, officials, personages, and leaders from various ministries and provincial and district offices, as well as many officials in charge of local administration consolidation work.

(Koan Kim), vice chairman of the Kandal Provincial Party Committee and first vice chairman of the Kandal Provincial People's Committee, spoke on the local administration consolidation work carried out at the beginning of (?October) 1992 and the targets for implementation in the immediate period.

(Koan Kim) stressed that the provincial authorities must pay attention to carrying out all the immediate tasks, such as in setting up voter registration polls in cooperation with the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] in Kandal Province.

On behalf of the CPP and the Government of the State of Cambodia, H.E. Chea Soth highly valued the efforts of all officials and personages in Kandal Province and all districts and localities to make the people understand the implementation of the peace agreement in Cambodia.

H.E. Chea Soth also exhorted all participants to continue promoting local consolidation work to make the people clearly grasp the voter registration work for the upcoming elections. At the same time, they should persuade the people in all localities in Kandal Province to jointly check all negative phenomena in society, maintain social order, take part in building and protecting social achievements, and vigorously strive to boost production so as to improve their livelihood.

Comment on UNTAC Involvement in Criminal Case

WA2210155492

[Editorial Report] Phnom Penh PRACHEACHON in Cambodian on 21 August on page 1 carries a column using the question-and-answer format and two characters, "Chea" and "Chon"—both names are elements of the word "people." The column raises the question of why some Cambodians seem to have more confidence in the UNTAC civil police than in SOC's. This tendency is "widespread," says the paper and is evidenced in the public's propensity to involve UNTAC police authorities in land disputes and even in "matters of minor importance."

The column cites the case of a man who was arrested by the SOC police on a "substantiated" rape charge. During the investigation, the police discovered the man's membership card from "one of the other factions." The man was subsequently released, notes the paper, but he then reported his detention to the UNTAC civil police as a "human rights violation by the SOC police against a member of a political party," whereupon UNTAC began an investigation. The paper notes all this was "just a ruse" and that the UNTAC police have no jurisdiction in these types of cases.

The column ends with a warning against using political party affiliation as "a defense for common criminal activity" and then claiming that the SOC police have violated human rights. The sole objective of these efforts is "to sabotage the SOC," says the article.

Country's Industrial Situation Analyzed

BK1810073692 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 18 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 18 Oct (SPK)—Since the implementation of economic reform in the country, which has turned toward a market economy, a number of state factories, industries, and enterprises have been handed over to local and foreign private companies with the aim of increasing the range of products to meet the needs of the people across the country.

According to an official of the Cambodian Ministry of Industry, 29 factories and enterprises under the ministry's management have officially been transferred to private companies, and the privatization of four other production units will also be considered in the near future.

Moreover, five state establishments, such as the Takhmau tire factory, the mechanical factories No. 1 and No. 2, a factory making plowing implements, and a self-financed printing workshop have been in trouble due to the shortage of raw material and power as well as difficulties in the circulation of products.

Ten industrial establishments, including mechanical factories, a flour mill, a battery factory, a shoe factory, and the Chak Angre soap factory, which have concluded lease agreements with private companies, have temporarily ceased their activities in order to allow for the management reorganization.

The brewery in Sihanoukville and in Phnom Penh, the No. 2 textile factory, and the cement factory in Kampot plan to resume their actitivies starting in 1993.

UNDP Grants Aid for Restoration of 10 Dams

BK1710060892 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0400 GMT 17 Oct 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 17 Oct (SPK)—The UN Development Program [DP] has granted $794,091 for restoration of 10 big dams in Kompong Cham, Kandal, Kompong Speu, and Prey Veng Provinces, among the 37 waterworks the Agriculture Ministry plans to restore.

Restoration work started in January and will be completed in October to ensure rice planting in the coming season.

Last year, nearly all the provinces were devastated by floods. About 650,000 persons, thousands of hectares of rice and subsidiary house crops and draft animals were affected by this natural disaster. Furthermore, 261 waterworks were destroyed.

Rainy Season Rice Planting Declines From 1991

BK1410065792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 13 Oct 92

[Text] According to a report by the Agronomy Department, by 3 October nearly 1,291,000 hectares of rainy season rice had been planted nationwide, or over 73 percent of the planned area of 2,040,000 hectares.

Compared to the same period last year, this represents a decrease of over 164,000 hectares. The provinces that have achieved the best results are Kompong Cham with over 85 percent of the plan and Banteay Meanchey with over 78 percent.

Indonesia

UN Urged To Focus on Disarmament Process

BK2310103492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0906 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] New York, Oct 23 (OANA-ANTARA)—Welcoming some encouraging developments in arms limitation and international security talks, Indonesia urged the United Nations to focus its role on arms reduction especially efforts to speed up multilateral disarmament process.

Indonesian permanent representative to the UN Nugroho Wisnumurti here on Wednesday told the UN commission I which deals with political and security affairs that disarmament, security, economic progress, as well as sustainable development can only be implemented by improving the process and mechanism of international decisions making.

Some encouraging developments in international affairs, he said, include completion of the US-Russia strategic arms reduction talks (START), statements from Russia, France, and the US on the suspension of nuclear experiments, expansion of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) membership, and completion of chemical weapons convention.

These will lead to a new international climate which would provide more opportunities for the achievement of world peace, security and economic progress, Ambassador Wisnumurti said.

He said the recent 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Jakarta also identified the fact that most agendas on disarmament have not been fulfilled.

Ambassador Wisnumurti said that Indonesia will support United Nations' steps to build mutual respect and trust in international affairs.

If the principle of mutual respect and trust can be applied in all regional conflicts it is likely that in the future various kinds of dispute and conflict can be prevented from taking place, he said.

Indonesia is a [country] which has been involved in the process of negotiation at the UN disarmament conference in Geneva on chemical weapons from the beginning, he said.

The draft on such weapons is scheduled to be ratified by UN General Assembly this year.

Ambassador Wisnumurti believed that the draft will be very important for the international society, particularly developing countries sensitive to the use of such weapons.

But, he reminded that chemical trade and cooperation aimed at increasing development should not be obscured by unilateral or discriminative limitations.

Developed countries, must give more chances to developing ones to create and develop technology for peaceful purposes, he said.

Japan Requests Liberalization of Investment Rules

OW2210141792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Jakarta, Oct. 22 KYODO—Japan's trade minister, Kozo Watanabe, submitted to the Indonesian Government Thursday a list of requests by major Japanese companies operating in ASEAN countries for a more conducive investment climate, Japanese ministry officials said.

To Indonesia in particular, the Japanese companies request liberalization to allow for foreign-owned companies in the retail industry, namely supermarkets and department stores.

But Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials who distributed the list to Japanese reporters said that Indonesian officials have rejected the request for the retail industry liberalization.

Other requests include relaxation of restrictions on foreign capital ownership in the industrial machinery sector, the abolition of high tariffs on raw materials for export products in the casting industry, and gradual deregulation for automobile parts.

In the industrial machinery sector, the Japanese companies request liberalization to allow for foreign-owned sales companies.

For all industrial sectors the list calls for improvement in infrastructure facilities such as transportation, electricity and telecommunications.

Watanabe is here on a tour of three Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. He will leave for Bangkok on Friday and then fly to Manila to meet his ASEAN counterparts who are now holding a series of meetings.

The list also includes items which it says are common to more than two ASEAN countries.

In the retail industry, the Japanese firms request tariff reductions, while in the precision machinery sector they want simplification of export and import procedures.

For the automobile industry, the Japanese want the ASEAN countries to deregulate and improve their investment climate.

Generally, the ASEAN countries are requested to improve their economic infrastructures.

Sutrisno Says Visitors to E. Timor Must Wait

BK2210155392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] An Australian parliamentary delegation led by (Christopher Chester Clark) today paid a courtesy call on General Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI]. A press release by the ABRI Information Center said that the two officials openly discussed various bilateral issues and the two sides could understand each other's problems and interests. Replying to a question by the Australian parliamentary delegation about their inability to visit East Timor, Gen. Try Sutrisno said that basically, they could go wherever and meet whomever they wanted in Indonesia without any limit with the exception for the time being of East Timor where a gubernatorial election had just ended. Thus, any visitors wishing to visit the region will have to wait for some time.

Air Force To Obtain 24 Hawk Planes From Britain

BK1810074092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 18 Oct 92

[Text] The Indonesian Air Force has placed an order for 24 Hawk jet fighters from Britain, which will gradually supply the planes within two years. Speaking in Bandung, Air Force Chief of Staff Marshal Sibun said the decision to order the sophisticated planes is in line with the long-term development target of the Indonesian Air Force. Marshal Sibun said the Indonesian Air Force's target consists of achieving a level of strength capable of coping with any aerial threat against the sovereignty and interests of the Indonesian people.

In this connection, the Air Force is training a number of its personnel in Britain while intensifying several joint educational programs with local universities. All these moves are aimed at meeting with the challenges of scientific and technological progress.

ASEAN Vows To Counter 'Anti-Tropical Wood Campaign'

BK2110090592 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 12 Oct 92 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Bandung, 12 October—The ASEAN agriculture and forestry ministers will make efforts to counter an anti-tropical wood campaign launched by developed nations. The ministers deeply regretted the Austrian Government's unilateral action in imposing terms on tropical wood and various related products without prior consultations.

Austria is now labelling [preceding word in English] tropical wood and its related products entering that country. By this action, the people there will be reluctant to buy ASEAN's major commodity.

Indonesian Agriculture Minister Ir. [academic title] Wardoyo disclosed this to newsmen following the 14th ASEAN ministerial meeting on agriculture and forestry held at the Hotel Horizon in Bandung on Saturday afternoon.

The ministerial meeting took place from 8 to 10 October, while senior ASEAN agriculture officials earlier met at the same hotel from 5 to 7 October. The meeting produced a number of agreements and statements.

The ministers categorically stated that the Austrian Government's unilateral action had cleary violated agreements set at the UN conference on development and environment or more popularly known as the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June.

The Indonesian Government has not given a firm reaction to Austria's unilateral action, but the Malaysian Government, Wardoyo said, has threatened to take a commensurate retaliatory measure against Austria.

The ASEAN ministers issued legally binding statements asserting their consensus on the conservation and sustainable development of forests, the convention on biological diversification, and Agenda 21.

The ministers also supported Indonesia's desire to have Bogor, West Java as the venue of an international forestry research center. [passage omitted]

Officer Discloses 'Missing' Former Detainees

BK1110094192 Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian 1 Oct 92 p 12

[Excerpt] Bandar Lampung—At least 25,000 out of 125,000 former PKI [Indonesian Communist Party] detainees from various detention categories registered with authorities in Jambi, Bangkulu, South Sumatera, and Lampung have been declared missing and their whereabouts cannot be traced or monitored. It is unclear whether they have died, moved to another area in the country, or even changed their identity and managed to infiltrate the existing political parties.

This was disclosed by Colonel (Infantry) Harni Tabri K., assistant for intelligence services to the Sriwijaya Second Regional Military Command, at a meeting with student and youth organization members organized by the Lampung chapter of the National Youth Committee in Bandar Lampung on 30 September. The meeting was also attended by Colonel (Infantry) Agum Gumelar, commander of the Lampung Area Military Command.

In his speech, the intelligence officer also related his own experience dealing with a number of communist cadres who wanted to revive communism in the country under the guise of social and religious activities. Among those arrested was one cadre who had undergone plastic surgery, but was later detected. He is Sabung Simanjuntak, younger brother of Joseph Simanjuntak, alias Ajitorop, who was captured in Jakarta on his return from Moscow.

Based on this evidence, Col. Harni Tabri urged people to remain vigilant despite optimism that communism will never reappear in Indonesia because it is possible that those former detainees whose whereabouts cannot be traced may now be regrouping and infiltrating the existing political parties. [passage omitted]

Laos

Criteria for National Assembly Members Viewed

BK2310044192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Oct 92

[PASASON feature: "Criteria of National Assembly Members"—dated 20 October]

[Text] Beloved listeners, members of our National Assembly are representatives of the people who work for the benefit of the people at the National Assembly. Their main duty is to control and to follow up the implementation of the constitution and laws to ensure the promotion and expansion of the people's rights to mastery. At present, the domestic and world situation is very complicated. Ill-intentioned elements have resorted to all possible schemes and tricks to crush our new system. The most dangerous point is that they are using strategic schemes of effecting changes through peaceful means with a view to doing away with the party's leadership and the revolutionary administration. In view of this situation, it is required that members of the National Assembly maintain firm characteristics and high quality in their work so that they can successfully fulfill the heavy duty that is entrusted to them by the nation and people.

The firm characteristics and quality of the National Assembly members can be comprehensively seen through the criteria of the National Assembly members themselves as follows:

1. Members of the National Assembly must maintain the patriotic spirit and the spirit of cherishing the new system and they must be consistently loyal to the cause of the party, to the new system, and to the people's interests.

2. Members of the National Assembly must maintain experience and capabilities in truly implementing things; know how to publicize and enable the multiethnic people of all strata to understand and implement the line, plans, and policies of the party and laws of the state; and effectively fulfill all tasks entrusted to them.

3. Members of the National Assembly must maintain a mass attitude, maintain roles and influences toward the multiethnic people, and always closely associate with the people, serve the people, and gain the trust and respect of the people.

4. Members of the National Assembly must maintain a certain level of cultural understanding so as to fulfill their tasks as the people's representatives. For example, they must be able to contribute views in the deliberation and endorsement of various laws as well as in the control and follow-up of the implementation of the constitution and laws.

In addition, members of the National Assembly must maintain good health so that they can regularly carry out activities in performing their duties.

ADB Assists Civil Aviation Master Plan

BK2210120492 Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] Vientiane, October 22 (KPL)—The Asian Development Bank [ADB] has approved a dollars 100,000 technical assistance grant to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] to help the government prepare the implementation of a civil aviation master plan to upgrade air transport.

The plan will address civil aviation is severely impeded [as received] by runways in need of rehabilitation, insufficient aids to navigation, inadequate airport handing facilities including passenger terminals and obsolete communication facilities. There are 19 civilian airports in the country.

The technical assistance will review cost estimates for civil work and equipment to be used for the master plan, formulate an adequate project management organization, examine local capabilities to carry out civil works, review the scope of proposed works and equipment supplies to prepare appropriate contract packages, and assess the training needs of staff in the Department of Civil Aviation and its line agencies.

The civil aviation experts, one specializing in aerodrome civil works and the other in navigational aids and flight control equipment, will be recruited in accordance with the bank's guidelines on the use of consultants.

Sugar Factory in Saithani Sold to Thai Firm

BK2110102892 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 21 Oct 92

[Text] Vientiane, October 21 (KPL)—The Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance has agreed to sell a sugar factory located in Pak Sap, Saithani District in Vientiane Municipality, to the Wangkhayai International Co., Ltd., of Thailand.

The factory was sold at a cost of U.S. Dollars 3.2 million under a deal according to which the payment will be made within 15 years. For the first five years, the buyer has to pay the interest rate at two percent of the total price of the factory. Also, it has to pay annually for land concession fees.

Signing the deal were Mr. Khamphoun Attanaphon, chief of the Land and Property Department, and Mr. Thira Sanfung, executive manager of the Thai company.

This factory facilities include buildings, machines, production equipment, transportation means, office appliances, and others.

Philippines

Ramos Says Government Taking 'Right Direction'

HK2310042392 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 23 Oct 92 p 12

[Report by Isabel C. de Leon]

[Text] President Ramos said yesterday that the government is on the right track in addressing the five major programs of the administration, particularly power and energy development.

In the "Towns Meeting" TV show on RPN [Radio Philippines Network]-9, the President, said the country will overcome all crisis and calamities "if we help each other."

"Our government has gone in the right direction. We are getting the people more involved, the programs are all in place," he said.

The President said the matter of national stability and peace and order has been properly addressed as well as economic recovery and growth, the streamlining of bureaucracies to remove red tape in the government, and the protection of the environment.

He added that his administration has initiated political and economic reforms to create a favorable investment climate for the country.

On national stability and peace and order, the President said the government is uniting the body politic with the repeal of the anti-subversion law and the release of all political prisoners "whether from the left or the right."

"We have the National Unification Commission to address the issue of reconciliation through a general amnesty program designed to return rebels to the fold of the law. We have called on all dissidents to articulate their beliefs and aspirations through the constitutional process," he added.

The President said the creation of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC), led by Vice President Joseph Estrada, was made to address concerns on public safety.

Towards the objective of economic recovery and growth, the President cited the removal of controls on foreign exchange transactions and the "more vigorous" steps to privatize government corporations.

"We are moving progressively to reduce tariffs and qualitative restrictions on most of our imports," he said.

The President said his administration is addressing the shortage, reliability, and cost of electric power "as effectively as possible" with fast-trask power projects.

"A Department of Energy will be established soon to implement and supervise a national energy and power development program that will guarantee the continuous flow of electricity to every Filipino household," he said.

Claims 'Passing Grade'

HK0910095992 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 9 Oct 92 p 1

[Report by Manny Mogato—itlaicized passage published in Tagalog]

[Text] President Ramos yesterday gave himself a passing grade for his administration's performance during its first 100 days, although he admitted scoring low in peace and order, primarily because his fight against kidnap-for-ransom gangs was not going well.

In his first "report to the nation address" marking his first 100 days in office, the President vowed to continue his five-point program to make the country East Asia's next economic tiger by the time he steps down from power in 1998.

The Ramos administration's program is anchored on establishing political stability, reviving the economy, revitalizing the bureaucracy, protecting the environment, and empowering the poor.

Assessing his administration's performance, Mr Ramos said he was satisfied over some "steady gains" during the last three months despite facing political and economic obstacles.

He partly blamed the spate of natural calamities, like the flooding and lahar flows induced by three successive typhoons, for drawing away his administration's attention and resources from other hard-up provinces in the country.

"*I will admit from the beginning: Not all I thought could be done had been done*," he told a multi-sectoral audience at Malacanang's ceremonial hall.

The President said his administration was more successful in reviving the slumping economy than improving the peace and order situation.

Although he had scored high in reconciling with his bitter political enemies, his efforts towards ending insurgency, the separatist and military rebellions have yet to reap results.

Perhaps the single biggest setback for the President has been the failure of law enforcement agencies in stopping kidnappers and other criminals in the metropolis.

The administration also has yet to find an effective solution to the recurring energy and power problem.

As if to underline this problem, the capital was again hit yesterday by three- to four-hour brownouts as the National Power Corporation (NPC) shut down some of its power plants for repairs.

Six fast-track projects designed to produce 800 megawatts more in mid-1993 are also delayed because of NPC's doesn't have enough capital to finance them.

The President's other programs and initiatives remained hanging, among them the reconciliation with all dissident forces.

Although the adhoc unification commission had been organized to draft the government's peace agenda, it is only now beginning to make headway.

Uncertainty also hangs over Malacanang's tax measures that would cover the administration's P22 billion to P26 billion deficit in the proposed P330.2 billion budget next year.

And the administration has yet to show its resolve in fighting graft and corruption. To date no big grafters have been arrested or jailed.

On the plus side, the administration has made modest accomplishments, especially in the economic side which has helped enhance the country's image to foreign businessmen and investors.

Among the reforms taken, which has improved the country's business climate are:

Removal of all controls on foreign exchange.

Privatization of all government-owned and controlled corporations.

Reduction of tariffs and restrictions on most imports.

Reduction of debt-service obligations as a percentage of exports from about 19 percent this year to 16 percent next year.

Increase in investments as shown by reports from the Board of Investment (BOI) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

Increase in both tourist arrivals and tourism value.

Stabilization of the price of basic commodities.

Increased commitment to public investment spending to build more roads, bridges, power plants, telecommunications, irrigation and other infrastructures.

"These reforms, taken together, prepare the ground for sustained growth," he said.

The President also reported accomplishments in dealing with the energy crisis, revitalizing the bureaucracy, protecting the environment, enhancing economic diplomacy, and empowering the people through fast delivery of basic services.

The President was gladdened by the people's response to his initiatives, as reflected in the bullish stock market and the high performance rating he got from surveys made by both government and independent private groups.

Mr Ramos vowed to continue reforms, especially in establishing greater political stability as a foundation for an economic take-off.

"No matter what it takes, we will eliminate these outlaw-gangs," he said showing his resolve to make up for his dismal performance on this issue. "We can never allow them to hold our civic stability to ransom."

Ramos Approves Debt Swap Program for Banks

HK2310092292 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 23 Oct 92 p 2

[Text] President Ramos has approved a novel debt-for-debt scheme which will enable holders of Central Bank [CB] liabilities to invest in distressed local banks.

CB Gov. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. yesterday said this is aimed at strengthening the banking system even as it lowers the CB's foreign debt stock. He added that this special scheme amends CB Circular No. 1267 to allow original creditors holding eligible CB debt to apply for approval instead of bidding for the right to use this same debt for a conversion transaction.

The CB has allowed some $100 million convertible debt for this scheme available on a first-come, first-served basis. Under this program, CB debt denominated in foreign currency will be converted into peso-denominated bullet notes.

By combining the interest and maturity features, the peso notes will immediately give the CB an implicit discount of 24% of face value. This means that the recognized present value of the notes is 75%.

The peso notes shall have a term of five years with a fixed interest yield accruing to the holder. These shall not carry a pretermination feature and cannot be assigned or transferred before the end of the five-year period.

These peso notes shall then be used to acquire an equity investment in new shares of local banks. Subsequently, the distressed bank may use such notes upon maturity (after five years from date of issue) to pay its outstanding obligations with the CB or the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC). In the absence of such loans with the CB or the PDIC, the holder of the notes may simply exchange them for shares in the bank.

When used immediately as investment in equity of a distressed bank, 75% of the investment is deemed to be paid. The balance of 25% shall be treated as unpaid subscriptions through a five-year equal amortization arrangement.

For a bank to be classified as "distressed," four conditions must be present—a bank run, continuing deficiency in reserves for two consecutive weeks, insufficient capital and incurring continuous operating losses. In addition, a bank which can present a CB-approved rehabilitation program can also qualify as distressed.

Mr. Cuisia, however, clarified that closed banks are not eligible for investments. Under this special scheme such that Manila Banking Corp. and Banco Filipino are not qualified. But ailing savings, thrift, and rural banks are covered by the program.

Military Officers Implicated in Crime Syndicates

HK2310030692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] The National Bureau of Investigation reported that two of the generals whose appointment confirmations are pending at the Commission on Appointments are involved with syndicates responsible for various crimes. However, Antonio Cuenco, Commission on Appointments committee chairman, refused to divulge the names of the generals until the investigation is finished.

Meanwhile, a Commission on Appointments member made a disclosure and mentioned the names of Commodore Virgilio Marcelo [Philippine Military Academy superintendent], Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas [Philippine Navy flag officier-in-command], and Lieutenant General Gumercindo Yap [Southern Command commander respectively].

Defense Chief Orders Probe

HK2310100492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] The appropriate investigation has begun on three top officials from the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] after the National Bureau of Investigation [NBI] revealed that they were involved in various illegal activities. Defense Secretary Renato de Villa made this statement in a news conference at his office in Camp Aguinaldo. He also asked the NBI to send the defense department a copy of its report on the three AFP officials.

The three have been identified as Rear Admiral Mariano Dumangcas of the Philippine Navy, Lieutenant General Gumersindo Yap of the Southern Command, and Commodore Virgilio Marcelo, superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy.

De Villa also ordered Defense Undersecretary Fernando Campos to lead the investigation. He said:

[Begin De Villa recording in English] I will not hesitate to take action against any officer or personnel in my entire department if there are justifiable grounds for doing so. At the same time, however, I would like to assure our officers and other personnel that I will give them every opportunity to defend themselves and clear their names in a proper forum against any accusations from any quarter which could smear or ruin their persons, their families, and their reputations as well as do irreparable damage to the Armed Forces of the Philippines as an institution. [end recording]

He added that he will not let the allegations go unquestioned.

Police Commission Vice Chairman Resigns 14 Oct

HK1510023892 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 14 Oct 92

[Text] Rene Cruz, National Police Commission vice chairman, has filed his resignation following a dispute resulting from investigations into illegal gambling; specifically, the game of jueteng.

DWIZ learned that the letter of resignation sent to President Fidel V. Ramos contained Cruz' firm opposition to several complaints filed against him. A source also revealed that it is not true that Cruz was being made to resign by the president. Cruz has urged the government to give him the opportunity to prove that he has not been conniving with illegal gamblers.

Cruz said that accusations made against him in the investigation were a result of politicking resulting in particular from investigations he made of jueteng incidents that occurred in Bicol, Southern Tagalog, and the Ilocos Region.

Ramos Accepts Resignation 22 Oct

HK2210023192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 22 Oct 92 pp 1, 7

[Report by Manny Mogato]

[Text] The resignation of Rene Cruz, the vice chairman of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) alleged to have connections with illegal gambling, was accepted yesterday by President Ramos.

Press Secretary Rodolfo Reyes announced the President's decision during a press briefing at Malacanang.

Reyes said the President accepted Cruz's resignation because Cruz will be campaigning for the presidency of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

The POC presidency is a full-time job, according to the President.

Cruz, a retired police major general who served as Ramos' chief of staff during the presidential campaign, was reportedly pressured to resign from Napolcom because of rampant reports linking him to illegal gambling. In his letter of resignation, Cruz submitted a point-by-point denial of the allegations.

Some senators, like Sen. Ernesto Maceda, have called on the President to accept Cruz's resignation to save his administration from embarrassment.

The President, according to Reyes, has ordered Cruz investigated further as part of his administration's effort to ascertain reports of wrongdoing by his high-ranking officers.

Cruz is the first close aide of the President to be removed from government office. Cruz is one of the few "original" supporters of Ramos, having served with him in the Korean War.

Cruz, like Ramos, served in the Philippine Constabulary [PC] and retired with the rank of a brigadier general. When the PC was dismantled, he immediately joined the Integrated National Police (INP), becoming its No. 2 man. He was promoted to major general before he retired from police service.

He joined Mr. Ramos at the defense department as assistant secretary for plans and programs, until Mr. Ramos joined the presidential campaign as chief of staff. [sentence as published]

When Mr. Ramos assumed power, he made Cruz vice chairman of the Napolcom and later secretary-general of the national Peace and Order Council (POC), both considered to be highly sensitive and influential positions.

Close aides of Cruz believe that the allegations levelled against him were politically motivated. During his brief stay at Napolcom, he had made a number of enemies both at the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police (DILG-PNP), they said.

Yesterday, President Ramos also ordered the suspension and confinement to quarters of three middle-level police officers implicated in kidnap-for-ransom and other criminal activities.

Reyes did not identify the three police officials but he conceded that one was a superintendent (lieutenant colonel) and the other two were "senior police officers."

The President issued a directive to Local Governments Secretary Rafael Alunan III and PNP acting Director General Raul Imperial to suspend the three police officials for 60 days pending their investigation.

Apart from being restricted to quarters, the three would not be paid salaries and allowances.

The President issued a directive to place the three officers under tactical interrogation following a report by the DILG on their alleged involvement in kidnapping and other crimes.

At the same time, the President asked the DILG-PNP to create a PNP office specifically designed to implement the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

"It is to purge the PNP of undesirables who blot the image of the organization that the President has issued this twin directives," a presidential spokesperson said. "The President is worried over the loss of confidence by the public in our law-enforcement agents."

The Ramos administration has made the restoration of peace and order, which includes ridding law-enforcement agencies of misfits, as one of its crusades.

To ensure that his directive is followed, the President asked the DILG-PNP to submit to Malacanang progress reports of its operations.

Alunan talked with Imperial for two hours in an emergency meeting at Camp Crame yesterday.

Alunan refused to name the three suspended police officials. So did Imperial.

CPP Undergoes 'Ideological Purification'

HK2010062792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 20 Oct 92 pp 1, 7

[Report by Alex R. Magno]

[Text] The ongoing ideological purification process within the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) threatens to nullify the efforts for top-level peace negotiations and postpone the possibility of a political settlement to the conflict.

According to reports from the underground, exiled leader Jose Ma [Maria] Sison has re-assumed the chairmanship of the CPP.

He replaced "acting chairman" Benito Tiamzon, who, according to the reports, proved lacking in the stature required to curb the spread of dissident ideas within the local communist movement.

Satur Ocampo, a leader of the National Democratic Front (NDF) that includes the CPP who was released from detention recently, denied the supposed internal purge in an interview with Chronicle reporter Frank Longid yesterday.

"There is no truth to that (purge). Hindi gagawa ng ganyan si Joma [Joma will not do such a thing] (Sison)," he said. He refused to elaborate. The denial was echoed by Ocampo's wife, Carolina Malay, also a former guerrilla leader.

The replacement of the CPP chairman is part of a comprehensive effort to "reaffirm" the "basic" principles on which the CPP was established, the reports said.

Among those basic principles are the primacy of armed struggle aimed at seizing state power, the "vanguard" role played by the Communist Party and the rejection of negotiations as a means to advance the political demands of the masses.

The "reaffirmation" of the CPP's basic principles comes by way of an internal purge that expels or suspends leading party cadres whose ideas have been defined as "deviating" from the party line. The reassertion of orthodoxy has required the suspension of inner-party democracy and the tightening of top-to-bottom controls in the revolutionary organization.

In the aftermath of the CPP's "strategic blunder" in 1985-86, numerous party cadres began demanding for greater democracy in party decision-making.

They blamed authoritarianism within the party for the isolation of the leadership from the realities of the political struggle and the sentiments of the movement's rank-and-file.

These CPP "dissidents" attempted to open channels for more vigorous debate (such as the short-lived journal Praktika and the momentary opening of a feedback section in the CPP bulletin Ang Bayan [THE NATION].

The "democratic openings" for ideological and strategic debate are now closed. A purge is in progress. The intellectual renaissance the "dissidents" expected did not materialize. The CPP is now being thrown back to the dark ages of received wisdom. The overaged Red Guards are busy consolidating their control.

Reports of Sison's reassumption of the CPP leadership are reinforced by the issuance recently of a Memorandum-Circular dated August 1992 and titled, "Tungkol sa Isyu ng Negosasyong Pangkapayapaan [About the Issue of Peace Negotiations]." The document ostensibly emanates from the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the CPP.

The Memorandum instructs all CPP members to study closely the two documents "Reaffirm our Basic Principles and Rectify Errors" and "Reaffirm our Basic Principles and Carry the Revolution Forward." Both documents are believed to have been written by Sison.

The document condemns the Ramos administration's peace initiative as a ploy to disarm, deceive and defraud the revolutionary forces. Insisting on the basic strategic principle of revolutionary armed struggle, the document denies negotiations as the way to "just and lasting peace."

The Executive Committee of the CPP called on all its cadres to expose the supposed ploy, strengthen CPP ranks and "correct errors and weaknesses in ideology, politics, and organization."

The document warned that "those who think and act as if the peace negotiations are the principal or exclusive means to achieve a just and lasting peace are serving the counter-revolution." The cadres are dissuaded from following the examples of other movements such as the African National Liberation Front that have shifted their strategies to center on the negotiation process.

The Memorandum also warned cadres against the "independent peace advocates" who speak of establishing "zones of peace" and local talks. These advocates, according to the document, work within the framework of the reactionary regime and serve its political ends.

Unwittingly, the document tells the informed reader such about emerging tensions within the communist movement.

A long section painstakingly argues that primary of the CPP over the NDF, warning cadres that the NDF has no authorization to operate on its own and preempt the party. [sentence as published] There is one terse and ominous statement that must be read closely: "The party shall never become merely a follower of the NDF on the (matter of the peace talks)."

It is clear from this document that the Maoist doctrinaires, having recaptured the Party, now want to prevent other component groups such as the NDF speaking with a separate voice. There is, in this document, clearly no interest in political settlement.

Abadia Orders Court Martial Steps Against Rebels

HK1610063492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Oct 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, has ordered immediate court martial proceedings against members of the military involved in coups against the last government.

In Abadia's order, he sent letters to the presiding officers of the General Court Martial to continue hearing cases filed against coup plotters. He added that hearings on the coup plotters will continue despite the government's ongoing amnesty program as the cases have no bearing on the process.

Abadia did not give any reason why he made the order. A critic, however, speculated that Abadia might be interested in determining who among the rebel soldiers can actually be granted amnesty.

Suspends Court Martial Proceedings 19 Oct

HK2010040692 Quezon City MALAYA in English 20 Oct 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Noel Bartolome and Carlito Pablo]

[Text] Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief, said yesterday he has ordered anew the suspension of general court martial proceedings against military rebels on a recommendation of the National Unification Commission [NUC].

But Abadia said the manhunt of rebel soldiers will continue despite the government's peace initiative, except for seven leaders who have been issued safe-conduct passes by the NUC. The seven include former Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan and Commodore Domingo Calajate.

The NUC has also issued passes to two National Democratic Front leaders. It has also been instructed by President Ramos to open talks with Muslim secessionist leader Nur Misuari.

Communist and Muslim rebels, however, have asked that the talks be held abroad. Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo rejected suggestions that peace talks with rebels be held at Philippine embassies. He said the proposal are unacceptable and would "internationalize" the insurgency problem. Romulo said the insurgency problem is an "internal matter" which must be dealt with within the country's territory.

Abadia said the NUC recommended the suspension of court-martial and civilian court proceedings against soldiers suspected of participating in coup attempts against the government. He said an earlier directive to resume cases against military rebels was made before the NUC made the recommendation. Abadia said he has not been in touch with military rebels. "They don't want to talk to me. They want to talk to Commissioner Yorac," Abadia said. Haydee Yorac is NUC chairman.

Abadia also laughed off reports of unauthorized troop movements last weekend. He said a reported coup plot was hearsay. "Things were very stable last weekend, I even played golf last Saturday and Sunday," he said.

Armed Forces 'Firm' in Refusal To Readmit Honasan

HK1510043792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 15 Oct 92 p 5

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is firm on the policy of its leadership not to allow former Army colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and other fugitive military officials to return to military service.

"As everybody knows, the ruling was issued by Gen. [General] Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief of staff. As far as our unit is concerned, we have not received any directive lifting his order," Brig. [Brigadier] Gen. Romeo A. Padiernos, chief of the AFP-Civil Relations Service (CRS), said.

Interviewed in the program "Radyo Peryodiko" over the government broadcast station "Radyo ng Bayan," Padiernos said only "higher authorities" are in a position to influence reconsideration of Abadia's policy.

During the interview, Padiernos said more fugitive soldiers, belonging to the "Black Forest Commando" led by former colonel Billy Bihit, are planning to surrender to AFP-CRS authorities at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

He said more than a dozen rebel soldiers sent feelers to give up before Oct. 31.

Padiernos told the nationwide talk show, hosted by veteran broadcaster and commentator Jun Pineda, that he issued safety conduct passes to rebel soldiers who showed up at AFP-CRS headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

He said the soldiers promised to urge their companions hiding in Metro Manila, Cavite, and Batangas to surrender.

He said he will help them get due process "and assist them to return to the military service if they wish."

Top Rebel Leader, 62 Men Surrender in Pampanga

HK1610100492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Oct 92

[Text] Bernardo Cunanan, alias Comrade Morgan, head of the Pampanga Central Committee of the New People's Army, formally surrendered today in ceremonies at Clark Air Base in Angeles City.

At the same time, Cunanan and 62 other NPA rebels took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution.

Congresswoman Andrea Domingo and House of Representatives Speaker Jose de Venecia said the NPA rebels were active in Pampanga, particularly in the towns of Santa Ana, Mexico, Arayat, San Fernando, San Luis, and San Simon.

Cunanan said he had been active in the leftist movement for the last eight years.

The surrender, De Venecia said, is part of the Ramos government's peace initiative.

The ceremonies were also attended by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Philippine National Police acting Director-General Raul Imperial, Speaker Protempore Raul Daza, Pampanga Governor Bren Guiao, and Mabalacat town Mayor Catalino Domingo.

Rebel Leaders Claim Anomalies in Returnee Program

HK1510001292 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Satur Ocampo, former National Democratic Front negotiator, and Makapanton Abas Jr., Moro Islamic Liberation Front spokesperson, revealed during a hearing by the Senate Committee on Peace and Unification that there were anomalies in the government's rebel returnee program, and that any action by the Senate which supports the amnesty program also condones its anomalies.

Both Ocampo and Abas refuted as propaganda the government's claim that thousands of rebels have surrendered. Abas said the fictitious claim was being used by some military and local government officials to secure logging concessions in the provinces. Meanwhile, Ocampo said that since the anomalies were being performed under the government's amnesty program, the Senate should clamp down on these wrongdoings. [passage omitted]

Senate To Limit Foreign Debt Payments

HK1010072492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 9 Oct 92

[Text] The Senate will insist on setting a limit on the country's foreign debt payments. Senate President Neptali Gonzales said the Senate will insist on the debt cap despite fears that American investors would withdraw or cancel their investment plans. The American investors' misgivings about the debt cap bill were expressed by the American trade mission, led by Maurice Greenberg and Ambassador Richard Solomon. Gonzales said the American businessmen's fears were due to a misinterpretation of the debt cap proposals. He said the Senate is proposing a 20-percent limit on foreign exchange payments, while the House of Representatives is pushing for a 15-percent limit.

Senate Approves Legislative-Executive Liaison Body

HK0810060392 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 8 Oct 92 p 1

[Text] The Senate approved on second reading yesterday a bill creating a Legislative-Executive Development Council (LEDC) which will serve as an effective link between the two branches of government in laying down economic development policies of the country.

The bill is a modified version of a similar measure already approved by the previous Congress but was vetoed by then President Aquino.

The veto of the measure was later on admitted by Mrs. Aquino as a big mistake and it added to the strain in her relations with Congress.

Senators Alberto Romulo and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, authors of the modified bill, said the creation of the joint Council institutionalizes the needed direct involvement of the highest and legislative leaders in national development planning.

"The establishment of the Council could help in bridging the gap between the development plan and the legislative enactments such as the budget by providing the venue where the top leaders of the legislature and the executive branch agree on the overall goals as well as the broad policies and guidelines to be followed in formulating plans and programs for development," they explained.

In effect, Romulo and Arroyo explained, the policies adopted by the Council could become practically self-executory since the President is its chairman.

The Council is to be composed of 16 members, including leaders of Congress, Cabinet members and representatives of leagues of local government chief executives.

Thailand

Effect of U.S. Election Outcome on Asia Examined

BK2310031192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Oct 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Why the White House Should Target Asia"]

[Text] Almost all of Asia is watching the run-up to the US election on November 3 with mixed feelings. President Bush is a known quantity, as opposed to Mr Clinton who would bring uncertainty but also, perhaps, fresh opportunity to a region that has dynamism yet occasionally lacks a clear direction in the world system. True, a newcomer to the White House, and particularly one with almost no foreign policy experience, could ignore the issues and problems of Asia, turning instead to focus on the central election issue of rebuilding America. That would be a mistake in terms of both historical and economic opportunity for all Americans.

Asia is not merely the fastest growing trade partner of the United States and the economic engine of the 21st century. It is increasingly the source of America's newest wave of immigrants and an area potentially far more volatile and misunderstood than Europe. Under the Bush Administration, American foreign policy has enjoyed the credentials of an experienced team of crisis managers. But visits to regions of Asia have been few and far between and policy has tended to centre around tactical responses to such single questions as Chinese human rights infractions or Japanese trade abuses. There is no American vision of "Asia" or the "Pacific Century". There has been no anticipation or preparation for what has been happening in this part of the world.

In the last few years Asia has emerged from its ideological confrontations with the West looking for a new script—one which a fresh-thinking Clinton Administration could largely orchestrate and write. Both Japan and China, the two big powers in Asia, have yet to win the total trust of all the smaller nations. This prevents them from taking an effective lead in building a new era of peace and prosperity. Europe is focused on managing its own house but the United States is uniquely placed to coordinate both burden-sharing in defence and economic growth in the marketplace (in terms of both trade liberalisation and investment). Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, America provides the symbol of democracy which many fledgling governments across Asia seek to emulate.

Contrary to the thinking of the Bush Administration, Asia cannot be guided solely by the ideals of the marketplace or democracy as they are expressed in the United States. The cultural and political systems are just too far apart and many leaders on our continent cannot avoid being hamstrung by narrow national concerns. Leadership must emerge from a new generation of American statesmen who listen and respond to the changes that have occurred across Asia—leadership that is neither Eurocentric nor adversarial to Asia.

One only need travel to places such as Korea, Japan, Malaysia, India or China to understand how some of the old models of thinking have been turned upside down in these countries. Ancient civilisations are grappling with modern—indeed American—models of democracy, freedom of speech and financial investment. Yet many Asian leaders cannot respond to the challenge of change in the fashion which the Bush Administration has envisioned. This is partly because Bush's foreign policy in Asia has been a mixture of actions and incentives—sometimes well-timed and executed, but seemingly lacking a fundamental course or direction. The poker game he has played has left very different Asian counterparts unsure of his intentions, and angered and confused by sudden swerves in direction.

It would be incorrect to assume that American leadership cannot understand or engage an audience in this part of the world. President Bush has simply not sought to do so on a serious basis, nor offered much in the way of fresh ideas. This opens the door to a new dialogue which Asian leaders are inhibited from initiating themselves.

In Mr Bush's favour is extensive foreign policy experience which Mr Clinton could not hope to match. But were the Arkansas governor to be elected he would have the certainty of being backed by a Democratic Congress. This would give the United States the full weight to exert its true strength in foreign policy through creating new forces of collaboration such as a new security system and a more open trading system in Asia. These are ideas which can only reach full fruition if the United States actually asks counterparts what their ideas are for change.

Bill Clinton likes to portray himself as a young man looking for new ideas. If, as many analysts and pollsters believe, he storms to victory on November 3 then perhaps he might begin his presidency with a Pacific Summit—an invitation to Japan, China and the region, and a new message to Asia that the United States and Democrats in particular are not looking to either patronise, scold or exploit their Asian counterparts. They are looking for greater responsibility and input from a region where half the world lives. President Bush, outgoing or not, should also take heed of this crying need for new ideas and fresh thinking. Lack of initiatives may well cost him his re-election and mean the difference between "down" and "down and out."

Commander Denies Thai Support for Burmese Rebels

BK2310024792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Oct 92 p A2

[Text] The commander of the First Army Region said yesterday the existence of ethnic rebels on the border with Burma was of benefit to Thailand, but he denied Thai support for the guerillas.

Lt Gen Chettha Thanacharo said demarcation problems at the Thai-Burmese border could have escalated into major bilateral conflicts had it not been for the minority groups acting as a "buffer".

"It's good that there are minority people acting as a buffer at the border. But if (the minority problem) is settled, the situation might turn dangerous," he said in a speech to the Association of Women Territorial Defence Volunteers at the Territorial Defence Department. His remarks came amidst lingering tension between Bangkok and Rangoon over the recent abductions of Thai villagers and officials. Most captives have been released.

The Thai-Burmese relationship also figured in the two-day parliamentary debate on the Chuan government's policies, with Opposition MPs questioning Thailand's alleged "two-faced" approach toward Burma and its minorities. The debate ended last night.

Chettha said Thailand was not supporting the ethnic rebels. But senior Thai officials have rarely mentioned in public the sensitive issue of "buffer states" at the border.

Describing the potentially explosive demarcation problems between the two countries, Chettha said: "It's like standing in water. (In certain areas) you'll never know you're in the Thai or the Burmese side." He cited the Three Pagoda Pass in Kanchanaburi province.

"Burma says it belongs to Burma. We say it belongs to us. This is quite dangerous," the commander said.

In a rare belligerent tone by a senior Thai army officer, Chettha recalled the bitter Thai-Burmese history.

"Burma now is not capable of invading Thailand because it still has to deal with the undefeatable ethnic remnants. Maybe Burma is paying for what it did to Thailand in ancient times. Now the country has to fight strong minority groups and the war may go on forever," he said.

Chettha added that he thought Burmese dissidents living in Thailand might be responsible for Sunday's bomb attack at the Burmese Embassy. The Thai government has said the incident could have been the work of people wanting to discredit the new Thai administration.

—Hundreds of Burmese troops have moved near the Thai-Burmese border opposite Mae Hong Son province in an attempt to crush Karen guerrillas, said an informed source yesterday. The source said about 500

> Burmese soldiers were stationed eight kilometres inside Burma from the border.

The troops, when moving near the border recently, had burned down a Karen village about 18 km from the province's Ban Doi Saeng area.

According to the source, about 200 Karen fled into Mae Hong Son's Ban Mai area recently. He said the Burmese troops press-ganged about 600 local villagers into work as porters.

The source said a number of Burmese soldiers were wounded when they were attacked by Karen guerillas yesterday. He said the Karen guerrillas nave encouraged dissident Burmese students to join them to fight the Burmese troops.

Bangkok Dailies Comment on Burmese Embassy Blast

BK2310103992

[Editorial Report] Four Bangkok vernacular dailies—MATICHON, THAI RAT, NAEO NA, and SIAM POST—on 21 and 22 October carry editorials commenting on the 19 October bomb explosion at the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok.

MATICHON's 21 October 400-word editorial on page eight, entitled "The More Bombs The More Lost," says "the bomb explosion inside the compound of the the Burmese Embassy last week has caused serious concern for the Thai Government more than anyone else because the blast was not aimed at doing any harm to the Burmese dictatorial regime. On the contrary, it was designed to discredit the Thai Government's ability to secure peace and order in the country. This assumption is based on the fact that the type of bomb used at the embassy is identical to that hurled at the entrance of the Interior Ministry a few days before."

The editorial continues: "Those who masterminded such violent incidents are selfish persons and lackeys of dictatorship. The aftermath of their deeds is bad for the country as a whole because what they have done certainly impairs the country's investment and tourist industry." It is rather difficult to arrest the culprits red-handed and reduce political tension as suggested by Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut. In conclusion, the editorial notes that all factions should "struggle under democratic rule because bomb blasts and other violent actions will only encourage the people to be more sympathetic with the government side."

THAI RAT's 21 October 350-word editorial on page 3, entitled "Thailand Must Not Be Gullible", cites mounting pressure on Thailand from many countries, especially the major powers, and international organizations to boycott Burma's military junta. However, the 50 million Burmese should not be punished for the international community's dislike of the Burmese regime. The paper says: "It is rather unfortunate if the bomb explosion at the Burmese Embassy was the work of the Burmese rebellious groups, for they want to incite the Thai people to hate Burma. In fact, we the Thai people do not take the side of the Burmese Government because we consider the fighting inside Burma to be an interal affair of that country. We have nothing to do with the political struggle in Burma. The Thai people must not allow any ill-intentioned people or Burmese rebellious group to fool us and to drag us into the mess. We want to tell the world that if we hate the Burmese military regime, why should Thailand be used to boycott that country and add more suffering to the 50 million Burmese people?

NAEO NA's 21 October 400-word editorial on page 4, entitled "For the Sake of the Country, Please", stresses that the two bomb explosions at the entrance of the Interior Ministry and Burmese Embassy in Bangkok happended just before the Chuan Likphai government is to present its policy statement to the National Assembly. Those who have lost power to the new government might mastermind the two incidents as well as the subsequent spate of bomb threats to "create unrest and confusion to prove that the government and the election-based potitical system are unable to defend peace and order in the country."

The editorial concludes by saying: "We want to see peace and order and prosperity in the country so that the Thai people will be able to enjoy good living conditions and a genuine democratic form of administration." The people will condemn any group which resorts to unscrupulous means to discredit anyone or to attain power. "We appeal to both new and old power-holding groups as well as the government side to suppress their selfishness and let things proceed on the right track."

SIAM POST's 22 October 450-word editorial on page 4, entitled "The Situation Prior to the Presentation of the Government's Policy Stement", recalls the two bomb explosions which occurred at the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok in July and October 1991 and problems the Thai Government has been facing in dealing with the underground activities of the Burmese dissident students in the country.

The editorial points out: "In any event, we want the Police Special Branch and other agencies concerned to take into consideration the blast which took place at the police box near the Interior Ministry on 9 October and the bomb threats against the National Assembly and other places because these incidents all occured before 21 October, the day the cabinet presents its policy statement to the parliament."

Chuan Discusses 19 Oct Airport Bomb Threat

BK2010162592 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 20 Oct 92

[Text] Speaking to newsmen who asked him about the bomb threat made yesterday against Thai Airways International, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said he had received no reports about the incident. The prime minister, however, told newsmen after attending the Cabinet meeting at Government House this morning that the government will ask the authorities to tighten security.

[Begin recording] [unidentified reporter] What about the bomb threat at the airport? It was not good.

[Chuan] Of course not.

[Reporter] In what way does the government plan to deal with this kind of problem?

[Chuan] Bomb threats are not good whether they are made against the airport or anything else. It is the government's duty to take care of the problem. We will order the authorities to tighten security. [end recording]

Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut refused to answer newsmen about the bomb threat. He told reporters only that he did not think the issue would be raised by opposition parties during the parliamentary debate on the government policy statement.

At 1500 today a telephone call was heard threatening the bombing of the parliament building. Speaking on the threat, Deputy House Speaker Thawin Phraison said no attention should be given to the hoax. He described it as an act of mentally deranged people. He said authorities are tightening security.

Minister Says Two Battalions To Be Dissolved

BK2210030492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Oct 92 p A2

[Text] Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak revealed yesterday that the government will dissolve some battalions as part of its policy to reduce the size of the Armed Forces, which it regards as bloated. He told Parliament during the policy debate that the Defence Ministry would adopt a "three-to-one" structure in which each division comprises three regiments and each regiment comprises three battalions. At present, some regiments comprise four or five battalions.

"The fourth and fifth battalions which were formed to handle past threats of communist insurgency would be dissolved because the security situation has changed drastically," he said.

Wichit said the Armed Forces would try their best to move the troops of the dissolved units to combat forces in the same areas. Otherwise, they would be put in services in non-combat military districts in their home provinces, Wichit said.

Gen Athit Kamlang-ek, a former supreme commander and army chief, responded that the move to reduce combat units was dealing a heavy blow to the morale of the rank and file soldier. He said that instead of reducing the units, the government should cut back on the number of generals.

"We have more generals here than elsewhere in the world, making our military structure top heavy. I can say we have a battalion of major generals, a company of lieutenant generals and two companies of full generals," Athit said.

Wichit said the Defence Ministry would handle the policy of making the Armed Forces smaller with great care. The minister said that the policy objective of this government was to cut back on the ratio between regular troops and reservists from 75 to 25 now to 60 to 40 in the near future.

The Armed Forces, he said, would emphasize training and education for its regulars and reservists. For reservists, the aim was to mobilize them and get them to operate as divisions within 72 hours, Wichit said. He allayed Athit's concerns that the government's policy to place more emphasis on joint military exercises with its allies would lead to the return of US military bases in Thailand.

"That's not our intention. The purpose of holding joint exercises, particularly with our neighbouring nations, is to reduce the possibility of armed conflicts with them, strengthen our friendship and our cooperation in logistics, as well as increasing academic exchanges," he said.

Strikes at Key State Enterprises Banned

BK1410010392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Oct 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] The government will ban strikes at key state enterprises where trade unions are to be revived after being dissolved under the military junta over a year ago, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday.

Chuan said legal measures will be enforced to prevent unionists from going on strike at state enterprises that provide essential public utility services.

Most of these state enterprises had had powerful unions which often threatened to resort to work stoppages when bargaining with the government over wages and conditions. But legal amendments last year revoked workers' right to strike and dissolved their unions.

The public utility services include the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand, the Metropolitan Water Works Authority, the State Railway of Thailand, the Port authority of Thailand and the Bangkok Mass Transit Authority.

The Chuan administration pledges in its draft policy statement to revive trade unions at all state enterprises some 14 months after the interim National Assembly set up by the military junta following the Feb 23 coup passed two bills dissolving the powerful labour groups.

The administration's draft policy statement says the Chuan coalition will "amend the law in order to [allow] the setting up of state enterprise labour unions which will be granted suitable rights".

Chuan said there would be some changes in the wording.

"Regarding the state enterprise unions, the government will make it clearer that no strike will be allowed at agencies responsible for public utility services," the prime minister told reporters at Government House after his Cabinet discussed the draft statement worked out by the government's policy-drafting committee.

According to an informed source, the amended wording stated that "work stoppages at state enterprises whose operations concern public utilities is prohibited".

Chuan's Democrat Party and its key allies, the New Aspiration and Phalang Tham parties, indicated during their election campaigns that they would let some 250,000 state enterprise employees nationwide re-establish their their unions.

"It's our policy to amend the law [to revive the unions]. But we don't want to see strikes taking place," Chuan said.

He said Cabinet members had "a lot of discussions" on how to control normally aggressive unionists at state enterprises.

Currently state enterprises are not covered by the Labour Relations Act, which allows so-called "extraordinary meetings" effectively a means of strike, of workers.

The dissolution of state enterprise unions prompted international criticism, but met with little public resistance locally. Before the military junta's clampdown, state enterprise unionists had been involved in politics and radically resisted government attempts to privatize state firms which were performing poorly or losing money. The union system was also blamed for rampant corruption at certain state enterprises.

A staunch advocate of the union dissolution was ex-prime minister Anan Panyarachun, who said scrapping union activism at state monopolies would "bring peace and stability to the country".

The image of state enterprise unionists improved somewhat during the May political crisis, during which they threatened to resist any future military coup with a general strike. New Aspiration leader and Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who recently said extra measures would be adopted to prevent the revived unions from becoming the "political tools" of anybody, reportedly came under an onslaught by his Cabinet colleagues yesterday when he tried to defend the right to strike of all state enterprise employees.

According to informed Cabinet sources, Chawalit was the only Cabinet member who proposed that all state enterprise unions can initiate strike action.

Deputy Prime Minister Bunchu Rotchanasthian confirmed yesterday the government would prevent the "abuse" of unions' power.

"The government is considering ways to ensure state enterprise employees take part in national development with full responsibility," Bunchu said.

A labour leader yesterday welcomed the government's policy, saying rights to form trade unions were "fundamental" in the democratic system.

"If any [union] does something wrong, it should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It's not right to dismantle the entire union system," said Somsak Kosaisuk.

Somsak was deputy secretary-general of the State Enterprises Relations Group, which was a powerful umbrella organization of unionists at state enterprises until last year.

Slovenian Minister Visits To Promote Trade Ties

BK2210035392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Oct 92 p A3

[Excerpts] Thailand is to become a major trading partner for the newly independent state of Slovenia, its foreign minister, Dr Dimitrij Rupel, said in Bangkok yesterday. Dr Rupel said Slovenia is looking forward to developing economic and business cooperation with other countries, especially in the Southeast Asian region.

He said Slovenia, a newly independent country in eastern Europe, is still not very well known in this region so it is necessary for him to make a special effort to introduce the country to the people here. He described his visit to Thailand as an important step during which he would introduce his country to Thai businessmen in the private sector.

"Thai products are of real interest to us, for example, food products such as rice and canned fish, silk, garments and other textile products," Dr Rupel said. [passage omitted]

Thailand recognized Slovenia on May 1, 1992 and established diplomatic ties on Sept 9, 1992. At present, the Thai Embassy in Vienna serves as the centre for the two countries' relations. However, Slovenia's Foreign Ministry is considering setting up an Honorary Counsel in Bangkok. Thailand now has an honorary counsel in Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital.

Dr Rupel said Slovenia is now a freemarket state and is in a position where it is seeking foreign investors to develop business relationships with it.

"So far, there are two foreign banks operating in Slovenia, an Italian and a German bank," Dr Rupel said. He said that after gaining independence, Slovenia had become a totally democratic state and will apply for EEC membership soon. About 100 countries worldwide have recognized Slovenia after its declaration of independence last year.

Meets Prime Minister, Departs

BK2310072392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Foreign Minister of the Republic of Slovenia Dr. Dimitrij Rupel called on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at the parliament yesterday upon concluding his visit to Thailand as guest of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visiting minister said that Slovenia would join the European Community in the near future. Slovenia has been considerably affected by fighting in former Yugoslavia. The breakaway republic has been recognized by the United Nations. Slovenia has been introducing itself to countries in Southeast Asia to establish closer ties in trade and investment.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai congratulated Slovenia for its joining the world community as a new member. Thailand, although with long tradition and (?advanced) level of development, still faced social problems especially mass poverty. The elected government will be focusing on eradication of poverty through income distribution and decentralization of wealth and development results. Slovenia's foreign minister left Thailand on his next leg of Southeast Asia tour to Singapore and Malaysia.

Vietnam

China Reports 'Certain Progress' in Border Talks

BK2310014492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 22 Oct 92

[Text] According to Radio Beijing, in response to questions raised by reporters on the recent Sino-Vietnamese talks, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wu Jiamin said in Beijing on the afternoon of 22 October that better mutual understanding and certain progress had been achieved at the talks between Chinese and Vietnamese experts over principles to resolve the overland border issue between the two countries and to define the territorial sea areas in the Tonkin Gulf.

Mr. Wu Jiamin further said that Prime Minister Li Peng would visit Vietnam by the end of this year, and that Vietnam and China would exchange views on the further development of the relations between the two countries over matters of mutual concern.

Paper Reaffirms Commitment to Paris Pact

BK2310070592 Hanoi VNA in English 0550 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 23—Vietnam will continue cooperating with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the Supreme National Council (SNC) and concerned parties in strictly implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia, says NHAN DAN in a commentary today on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the Paris agreement on Cambodia.

The paper hails the U.N. Security Council's adoption of Resolution No. 783 demanding that the Khmer Rouge facilitate without delay full deployment of UNTAC in Cambodia and strictly implement the second phase of the ceasefire, particularly the concentration and disarmament of its forces.

NHAN DAN quotes the resolution as saying that the door remains open to the Khmer Rouge to take part in the peace process but the elections to a constituent assembly will be held not later than May 1993 with or without the Khmer Rouge's participation.

The paper recalls that Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam declared at the Oct. 2 meeting of the 47th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations that Vietnam will strictly respect and fully implement the provisions relating to Vietnam in the Paris agreement on Cambodia and denounces acts of ostracism and persecution against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and categorically rejects all slanderous allegations by those who try to cover up their acts of torpedoing the Paris agreement.

Text of People's Court Law Promulgated

Part 1

BK2110111792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 12 Oct 92

[First installment of "text" of Law on the Organization of People's Courts passed by the Ninth National Assembly's first session—read by announcer]

[Text] By virtue of the 1992 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], this law defines the organization and activities of people's courts.

Chapter 1: General Clauses

Article 1. The Supreme People's Court, local people's courts, military courts, and other courts are legal organs set up by the SRV to deal with violations against the criminal code and cases involving civilian affairs, marriage and family affairs, labor disputes, and other cases as stipulated by law. Depending on their functions, these courts are dutybound to safeguard the socialist legal system, the socialist regime, and the people's right of mastership; secure the property of the state and collectives; and safeguard the lives, property, freedom, honor, and human dignity of citizens. Through their activities, they help make citizens aware of the need to remain loyal to the fatherland, seriously abide by rules and regulations, respect the principles governing social life, and respond to the campaign against criminals and law breakers.

Article 2. a. The SRV court system consists of the following:

—The Supreme People's Court;

—people's courts in provinces and cities under the direct management of the central government;

—people's courts in districts, precints, district capitals, and townships under the management of the provincial governments;

—military courts; and

—other courts defined by law.

The National Assembly may decide to set up special courts to deal with special circumstances.

b. Regarding the grass-roots level, appropriate people's organizations may be formed to deal with minor law violations or minor disputes among local residents. The National Assembly Standing Committee is responsible for defining the regulations governing the personnel organization and activities of these organizations.

Article 3. The procedures for appointment of judges shall apply to courts at all levels. The procedures for appointment of jurors shall apply to the Supreme People's Court and military courts. The procedures for selection of jurors shall apply to local people's courts.

Article 4. People's jurors shall participate in all trial activities of people's courts. Military jurors shall participate in all trial activities of military courts as stipulated by military court trial regulations. As far as prosecutions are concerned, jurors are entitled to the same equal powers as judges.

Article 5. As far as prosecutions are concerned, judges and jurors shall remain impartial and abide by law only.

Article 6. Court trials shall be conducted collectively and court decisions shall be made according to the majority. The composition of juries at all levels shall be defined by law on litigation.

Article 7. Except for cases involving the protection of state secrets and fine national customs, all court hearings must be conducted publicly.

Article 8. Court trials shall be conducted in accordance with the principle of guaranteeing equality before the law for all citizens regardless of their sexes, nationalities, religions, and social classes or social positions.

Article 9. Courts shall guarantee the right of the accused to defend their cases and protect their legitimate rights and interests.

Article 10. Courts shall guarantee conditions for those involved to have the right to use their mother tongues or writing systems before the court.

Article 11. Once they become effective, court verdicts or court decisions must all be observed by state agencies, military units, economic organizations, mass societies, and citizens. Individuals, agencies, and organizations responsible for serving court sentences or court decisions must seriously do so.

People's courts, agencies, and organizations responsible for the execution of court sentences or court decisions must seriously do so and must be responsible before the law for their implementation.

Article 12. If necessary, along with issuing verdicts or decisions, a court may request an agency or organization concerned to adopt measures to eliminate causes leading to criminal activities or law violations by personnel under its charge. The agency or organization in question must, upon receiving such a request, study ways to implement it, and must, within 30 days from the day on which the request is received, keep the court informed of the necessary action it has taken.

Article 13. Courts should work with state agencies, the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] and its affiliated organizations, armed units, and economic establishments to secure the educational effect of their court sessions and create favorable conditions for enforcing their verdicts and decisions.

Article 14. Courts should make joint efforts with people's organs of control; public security, inspection, judiciary services, and other agencies concerned; as well as with the VFF and its affiliated organizations to study and adopt measures to prevent and suppress criminal activities and other law violations.

Article 15. The chief justice of the Supreme People's Court must bear responsibility before and keep the National Assembly informed of work evaluation results. When the National Assembly is not in session, he must bear responsibility before and keep the National Assembly Standing Committee and the president of the state informed about work evaluation results, and must also answer questions raised by National Assembly deputies.

Chief justices of local people's courts must bear responsibility before and keep people's councils at the same level informed of work evaluation results, and must also answer questions raised by people's councilors.

Article 16. Reponsiblity for the management of local people's courts in terms of organization shall be undertaken by the minister of justice in close coordination with the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court. Regulations for the coordination between the minister of justice and the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court in managing local people's courts in terms of organization shall be determined by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Chapter 2: The Supreme People's Court

Article 17. 1. The Supreme People's Court is the highest organ of adjudication of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

2. The organizational structure of the Supreme People's Court is composed of the Council of Judges and the adjudication committee of the Supreme People's Court,

the Central Military Court, the Criminal Court, the Civilian Court, and the Courts of Appeal.

When necessary, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall decide on the establishment of other responsible courts at the request of the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court.

3. The supporting apparatus: The Supreme People's Court is staffed by the chief justice, deputy chief justices, judges, jurors, and court secretaries.

Article 18. The Supreme People's Court shall direct all courts in applying laws under a unified system and reviewing the experiences in their adjudication work. The Supreme People's Court shall supervise the adjudication work of courts at all levels, as well as that of special and other courts except in cases when other stipulations have been established for these courts.

The Supreme People's Court shall submit draft laws to the National Assembly and draft decrees to its standing committee as stipulated by the law.

Article 19. The powers of the Supreme People's Court:

1. Holding first and final trials of various cases in accordance with the stipulations of the law of procedure.

2. Reconsidering cases tried by the court of first instance whose verdicts have not come into effect due to an appeal filed by an immediate lower court.

3. Supervising the retrial of cases in which verdicts have come into effect but with appeals filed later based on the law on litigation.

Article 20. 1. The Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court is the highest organ of adjudication in the system of supervising retrials and also the organ directing adjudication work of courts at all levels.

2. The Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court is composed of the chief justice and deputy chief justices of the Supreme People's Court and the heads and deputy heads of various responsible courts of the Supreme People's Court. The chief justice of the Supreme People's Court shall appoint a number of judges and submit their names to the Standing Committee of the National Assembly for approval.

Article 21. The following are the duties and powers of the Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court:

1. Supervising retrials of cases in which verdicts reached by adjudication committee of the Supreme People's Court have come into effect, but have later been appealed against. Directing all courts in applying laws under a unified system. Reviewing experiences in adjudication work.

2. Decisions of the Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court must be approved with voting by more than half of the total number of members of the Council of Judges. The chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control and the minister of justice have the responsibility to attend the meetings to be held by the Council of Judges to discuss guidance the application of laws and review experiences in adjudication work.

Article 22. 1. The Board of Judges of the Supreme People's Court serves as the standing body of the Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court.

2. The Board of Judges of the Supreme People's Court consists of the following:

—A chief justice and deputy chief justices.

—Presiding justices of special tribunals of the Supreme People's Court.

3. The Board of Judges of the Supreme People's Court has the following duties and powers:

—To reconsider cases in which verdicts reached by lower courts have come into effect but have later been appealed against in accordance with the law on litigation.

—To direct other courts in implementing the resolutions adopted by the Council of Judges of the Supreme People's Court.

—To review reports on the adjudication work of other courts that the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court submits to the National Assembly and its standing committee, and to the president of the state.

4. The decisions of the Board of Judges of the Supreme People's Court must be approved by more than half the total number of board members in order to become valid.

Article 23. 1. A criminal tribunal or civilian tribunal under the Supreme People's Court consists of a presiding justice, deputy presiding justices, judges, and court clerks.

2. A criminal tribunal or civilian tribunal under the Supreme People's Court has the following duties and powers:

—To exercise first and final jurisdiction on cases as stipulated by the law on litigation.

—To reconsider cases in which verdicts have come into effect but have later been appealed against in accordance with the law on litigation.

Article 24. 1. A court of appeal under the Supreme People's Court consists of a presiding justice, deputy presiding justices, judges, and court clerks.

2. A court of appeal under the Supreme People's Court shall reconsider cases in which verdicts reached by immediate lower courts have come into effect but have later been appealed against.

Article 25. The chief justice of the Supreme People's Court has the following duties and powers:

1. To organize the adjudication work of the Supreme People's Court.

2. To preside over meetings of the Council of Judges and the Board of Judges of the Supreme People's Court.

3. To order the retrial of cases in which verdicts or decisions reached by courts of all levels have come into effect but have later been appaealed against by using the court retrial procedures set by the law on litigation.

4. To let the president of the state know about his personal views on amnesty requests for death row convicts.

5. To appoint, remove from office, or dismiss presiding judges and deputy presiding judges of special tribunals, chiefs and deputy chiefs of departments, and officials in charge of other organizations of the Supreme People's Court, except for deputy chief justices and judges.

6. To help foster the professional ability of judges, jurors, and cadres in charge of adjudication work.

7. To report the results of adjudication work of the various courts to the National Assembly and its standing committee, and to the president of the state.

8. To direct the drafting of laws and regulations by the Supreme People's Court for submission to the National Assembly and its standing committee.

9. To define the personnel organization of the support services apparatus of the Supreme People's Court and submit it to the National Assembly Standing Committee for decision.

Article 26. Deputy chief justices of the Supreme People's Court have the following duties and powers:

1. To assist the chief justice in the discharge of his duties as suggested by the chief of justice himself.

2. To order the retrial of cases in which verdicts or decisions reached by lower courts have come into effect but have later been appealed against by using the court retrial procedures.

Chapter 3: Local People's Courts

A. People's courts in the provinces and cities under the direct management of the central government.

Article 27. 1. Organizational structure: A people's court in a province or city under the direct management of the central government consists of a board of judges, a criminal court, a civilian court, and a support services apparatus.

2. A people's court in a province or city under the direct management of the central government consists of a chief justice, deputy chief justices, judges, people's jurors, and court clerks.

Article 28. Provincial and city people's courts under the central authority are authorized:

1. To hold lower-court trials on various court cases as stipulated by the law on criminal procedures.

2. To hold appellate trials on those cases where a ruling—which has not been put into force—by a lower court is appealed against.

3. To hold appellate trials on those cases where a ruling—which has been put into force—by a lower court is appealed against.

Article 29. 1. The board of judges of a provincial or city people's court under the central authority shall comprise: a chief judge, his deputies, and the presiding judges of various special tribunals belonging to those provincial and city people's courts under the central authority.

2. The board of judges of a provincial or city people's court under the central authority shall have the following duties and powers:

—Hold appellate trials on those cases where a ruling—which has been put into force—by a lower court is appealed against.

—Ensure the uniform application of the law at those courts at the same or lower echelons.

—Based on reports from the chief judges of provincial and city people's courts under the central authority on adjudication work at various local courts, review adjudication experiences in order to report the results to the people's council at the same level and to the Supreme People's Court.

3. Any ruling by the board of judges of the provincial or city people's court under the central authority shall be approved by more than half of its members.

Article 30. 1. A special tribunal of those provincial or city people's courts under the central authority shall comprise a presiding judge, his deputies, judges, and court clerks.

2. Special tribunals of those provincial or city people's courts under the central authority shall have the following duties and powers:

—Hold lower-court trials on those cases stipulated in the law on criminal procedures.

—Hold appellate trials on those cases where a ruling—which has not been put into force—by a lower court is appealed against.

Article 31. 1. The chief judge of a provincial or city people's court under the central authority shall have the following duties and powers:

— Organize adjudication work.

— Chair various meetings of the board of judges.

— Through procedures for appellate adjudication, overrule those rulings—which have been put into force—of lower courts as stipulated by the law on criminal procedures.

— Appoint, release from duty, and dismiss the presiding judges and deputy presiding judges of special tribunals as well as other positions, except for deputy chief judges and judges of his court.

—Organize additional professional training for judges, jurors, and cadres of the courts at the same or lower echelons.

—Report to the people's council of the same level and to the Supreme People's Court on the judication work of various local courts.

2. A deputy chief judge shall help his chief judge perform his duty as assigned by the latter.

B. District, precinct, town, and city people's courts under provincial Authority.

Article 32. 1. A district, precinct, town, or city people's court under provincial authority shall comprise a chief judge, one or two deputy chief judges, judges, public jurors, and court clerks.

2. District, precinct, town, and city people's courts are authorized to hold lower-court trials on various cases as stipulated by the law on criminal procedures.

Article 33. 1. The chief judge of a district, precinct, town, or city people's court under provincial authority shall have the following duties and powers:

—Organize adjudication work.

—Report to the people's council of the same level and to the next-higher court on his court's adjudication work.

2. A deputy chief judge shall help his chief judge perform his duty as assigned by the latter.

Last Part

BK2210135392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 13 Oct 92

[Last installment of "text" of Law on the Organization of People's Courts passed by the Ninth National Assembly's first session—read by announcer]

[Text] **Chapter 4: The Military Court**

Article 34. 1. Military courts can be set up in the Vietnam People's Army [VPA] to try cases in which defendants are soldiers on active duty and other cases in accordance with the stipulations of the law.

2. Military courts include the Central Military Court, military courts at military region and equivalent levels, and zonal military courts.

3. The rights and obligations of military personnel and national defense workers and officials attached to military courts are based on the army system.

Article 35. 1. Military courts are equipped with chief and deputy chief justices, judges, military jurors, and court secretaries.

2. The chief justice of the Central Military Court is the deputy chief justice of the Supreme People's Court and judges of the Central Military Court are also judges of the Supreme People's Court.

Article 36. The organizational and operational systems of military courts shall be determined by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

Chapter 5: Judges and Jurors

Article 37. Judges can be selected or appointed and jurors can be elected from among Vietnamese citizens who are loyal to their country, endowed with good ethical quality, and equipped with legal knowledge and a determination to safeguard the socialist system.

The Standing Committee of the National Assembly shall determine the specific criteria for judges and jurors of courts at all levels; the procedures for selecting and appointing judges or relieving them of their duty and dismissing them from office, and electing jurors, relieving them of their duty, or removing them from office; the organizational and operational systems of the judge recruting council; and the rights and obligations of judges and jurors.

Article 38. The chief justice of the Supreme People's Court shall be elected, relieved of his duty, or dismissed from office by the National Assembly on the recommendation of the state president. The term of office of the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court is the same as that of the National Assembly.

The state president is authorized to appoint chief and deputy chief justices and judges of the Supreme People's Court; the people's courts in provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government and districts, precincts, cities, and municipalities subordinate to a province; and military courts. The state president is also authorized to relieve them of their duty or dismiss them from office.

The term of office of deputy chief justices and judges of the Supreme People's Court and chief and deputy chief justices and judges of local people's courts and military courts is five years.

Article 39. People's jurors of the Supreme People's Court shall be selected and relieved of their duty or removed from office by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on the recommendation of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee presidium.

Military jurors of the Central Military Court shall be elected and relieved of their duty or removed from office by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on the recommendation of the VPA's General Political Department.

People's jurors of local people's courts shall be elected and relieved of their duty or removed from office by people's councils at the same level on the recommendation of VFF committees at the same level.

Military jurors of military courts at military region and equivalent levels shall be selected and relieved of their duty or removed from office by the director of the VPA's General Political Department on the recommendation of political organs of military regions, army corps, armed services, general departments, or those at equivalent levels.

Military jurors of zonal military courts shall be selected and relieved of their duty or removed from office by directors of political departments of military regions, army corps, armed services, general departments, or those at equivalent levels on the recommendation of political organs at divisional or equivalent levels.

The term of office of people's jurors of the Supreme People's Court and military jurors is five years. The term of office of people's jurors of local people's courts is the same as that of people's councils at the same level.

Article 40. The number of judges and jurors of the Supreme People's Court shall be decided by the National Assembly Standing Committee at the recommendation of the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court.

The number of judges and popular jurors of local people's courts shall be decided by the National Assembly Standing Committee at the recommendation of the minister of justice after reaching a concensus with the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court.

The number of military judges and jurors in those military tribunals at the military region or corresponding levels as well as in various regional military tribunals shall be decided by the National Assembly Standing Committee at the recommendation of the minister of justice after reaching a concensus with the minister of national defense and the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court.

Article 41. Those state organs, military units, and economic and social organizations with personnel who are elected or appointed jurors are responsible for creating conditions for these jurors to perform their adjudication duties.

Jurors shall be given professional training and shall receive allowances for their adjudication duties.

Chapter 6: Ensure the Operations of Courts

Article 42. The system of wages, allowances, identification papers, and uniforms for court officials shall be fixed by the National Assembly Standing Committee.

Article 43. The table of organization of the Supreme People's Court shall be decided by the National Assembly Standing Committee at the recommendation of the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court.

The general table of organization of local people's courts shall be decided by the government at the recommendation of the minister of justice after reaching a concensus with the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court.

The minister of justice shall, in cooperation with the chief justice of the Supreme People's Court, determine the table of orgnization for every local people's court.

Article 44. The government shall present its estimates for the operating fund of the Supreme People's Court, local people's courts, and military tribunals for decision by the National Assembly.

Article 45. Public security organs are responsible for escorting defendants and providing security for all sessions of the Supreme People's Court and local people's courts.

The military police are responsible for escorting defendants and providing security for all sessions of military tribunals.

Chapter 7: Final Clauses

Article 46. This law supersedes all those previous laws on the organization of the courts of law.

All those previous stipulations at variance with this law shall hereby be rescinded.

This law was passed by the Ninth National Assembly at its first session on 6 Octber 1992.

[Signed] Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly.

National Youth Congress Closes 18 Oct

BK2010140392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Oct 92

[Report on the 18 October closing of the Sixth National Congress of Delegates of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union at the Ba Dinh Conference hall in Hanoi—portions recorded]

[Summary] "After four days of intensive and enthusiastic work, the Sixth National Congress of Delegates of the Ho Chi Minh [HCM] Communist Youth Union was closed at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi this afternoon [18 October]."

At this afternoon's closing session, the congress "had the honor of welcoming Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the SRV state; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister; Comrade Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly."

Also present were many writers, artists, radio and television correspondents.

"Attending as members of the session presidium were Comrades Le Duc Anh, Vo Van Kiet, Nong Duc Manh, Vu Oanh, Truong My Hoa, Ha Quang Du, and those comrades who were secretaries of the Fifth Youth Union Central Committee such as Ho Duc Duyet, Trinh To Tam, Pham Phuong Thao, Nguyen Huy Hung, Tran Hoang Tham, Vu Xuan Hong, Thai Hien Luong, and Phung Ngoc Hung."

The session began with Comrade Hoang Dinh Quan, on behalf of the presidium, reading a report on the results of the first session of the Sixth Youth Union Central Committee.

"The report shows that Comrade Ho Duc Duyet was elected first secretary of the Sixth Youth Union Central Committee."

Comrade Ho Duc Duyet was greeted by the congress with resounding applause. He was hugged by Ha Quang Du, his predecessor, who presented him with a bouquet of flowers. Afterward, Le Duc Anh, Vo Van Kiet, Nong Duc Manh, and other comrades in the presidium took turns to shake hands with and hug the newly-elected first secretary of the Sixth Youth Union Central Committee.

"Comrade Pham Phuong Thao, secretary of the youth union Central Committee, was also greeted with a resounding applause."

The report on the results of the first session of the Sixth Youth Union Central Committee also reveals that "the session elected a 14-member Standing Committee whose members are: Tran Lieu Hai, Nguyen Duy Lam, Vuong Xuan An, Nguyen Kim Thanh, Tran Van Tiet, Nguyen Van Bua, Nguyen Manh Cuong, Ngo Van Trien, Ngo Trung Thanh, Ha Xuan Tung, Hoang Dinh Quan, Pham Quoc Chinh, and Truong Thi Mai."

The congress voted on certain issues raised in the revised statute of the youth union and "unanimously agreed to choose the song 'Youths Follow the Uncle's Advice'—composed by Hoang Hoa—as an official song for the youth union. The congress also favored the idea of holding district youth union congresses once every five years or twice every five years in areas where conditions permitted."

After the congress had passed the youth union's statute, Comrade Nguyen Hoang Ha, a female delegate from Thua Thien Hue Province, read the full text of the congress resolution.

[Begin Nguyen Hoang Ha recording] "The Sixth National Congress of Delegates of the HCM Communist Youth Union was held from 15-18 October 1992 in Hanoi with the participation of 797 [as heard] outstanding members from various parts throughout the country." The congress had the honor of welcoming Comrades Do Muoi, Pham Van Dong, Vo Chi Cong, Le Duc Anh, Vo Van Kiet, Nong Duc Manh, and other party and state leaders. The congress decides to:

1. Approve a report of the Fifth Youth Union Central Committee dealing with the implementation of the resolution of the Fifth Youth Union Congress and with an action program for the youth movement during the period 1993-1997.

2. Approve the youth union's revised statute.

3. Given the needs to carry out the renovation undertaking and develop the country along the socialist path, the congress assigns the Sixth Youth Union Central Committee with the duty of:

—organizing the study of various party resolutions on youth affairs.

—giving priority to building the Youth Union politically, ideologically, and organizationally; recruiting more new youth union members; paying attention to teenagers and children's activities; and renovating the youth union's operational procedures to suit new socioeconomic conditions.

—regarding the task of uniting and rallying youths as an urgent task at present and in the long run; "heightening vigilance against hostile forces's attempts to draw youths into antisocialist activities in our country; and regarding the task of defending the fatherland and maintaining public order, security, and social safety as a permanent important duty of the entire youth union."

4. It is necessary to work out a plan to guide various youth union echelons to successfully implement the four major action programs already passed by the congress.

The congress supports the government's action program presented by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet at the recent Ninth National Assembly meeting.

"The congress emphasizes the need to pay specific attention to organizing the youth and teenagers movement in schools. This is to promote good scholastic performance among a large number of students and to rally them into social activities. From this, efforts should be made to strengthen the youth union organizationally."

5. It is necessary for the Sixth Youth Union Central Committee to devise some policies on youth and teenagers activities and present them to the National Assembly and the government for approval. [end recording]

Amid a festive atmosphere, newly-elected members of the Sixth HCM Communist Youth Union Central Committee were presented before the congress. On behalf of those newly elected, Comrade Ho Duc Duyet, first secretary of the Youth Union Central Committee, thanked the congess for having elected them into the youth union leadership.

Afterward, Ho Duc Duyet delivered a closing speech. He said:

[Begin Ho Duc Duyet recording] The Sixth National Congress of Delegates of the HCM Communist Youth Union today is drawing to a close.

The congress has passed many important documents which include "a report of the Fifth Youth Union Congress, a revised statute for the HCM Communist Youth Union, and a resolution of the congress."

The results of this congress reflects youths' loyalty and firm confidence in the renovation policy initiated and directed by our party.

"Despite new advantages and opportunities, there will remain great difficulties and ordeals in the period ahead. Under the banner of the party and the Ho Chi Minh thought, we are determined to remain united and to pool our efforts for the sake of a prosperous people and a powerful country."

The Sixth Youth Union Central Committee pledges to do its utmost to successfully implement the resolution of the congress.

"I solemnly declare the Sixth Congress of Delegates of the HCM Communist Youth Union closed." [end recording]

Papua New Guinea

Wingti Dismisses Provinces' Secession Threat

BK2310061492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Port Moresby, Oct 23 (AFP)—Prime Minister Paias Wingti on Friday dismissed renewed threats by Papua New Guinea's five island provinces to secede, saying most people supported his government.

In a statement, leaders of the five island provinces said Friday they had tried to involve the neighbouring Solomon Islands in their quarrel with Wingti's proposal to abolish provincial governments.

The premiers of East and West New Britain, Manus and New Ireland, and representatives from Bougainville island said they had written to Solomons Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni to explain their threat to secede, saying:

"The benefits to your country if this can be achieved will be significant."

Bougainville, remotest of the island provinces, lies within the Solomons geographical chain and is officially known as North Solomons Province. Its people are ethnically closer to Solomon Islanders than to the rest of Papua New Guineans.

Bougainville's government was suspended in 1989 when Port Moresby declared a state of emergency to meet a secessionist insurrection led by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA).

Government troops this week launched what they say is a final push to regain complete control of the island from the BRA.

Previous raids on alleged BRA bases in the Solomon Islands strained relations between Port Moresby and Honiara almost to breaking point.

Wingti, who became prime minister after an election in July, suspended the governments of four mainland provinces this month for financial mismanagement and—in one case—for political instability and administrative breakdown.

He had earlier said he had cabinet approval to abolish the governments in all five island and 14 mainland provinces because the system was too costly and had not produced the expected results for rural development since its inception 15 years ago.

Wingti, who also served as prime minister in 1985-87, said consultative administrators would supersede the governments, and described the decision as one of the most important he had made.

Premiers and community leaders of the island provinces meeting on New Britain, the largest island, issued a statement Wednesday saying, "Either Wingti must go or the islands region must go, and it is of no great concern to us which one it is."

In their new statement Friday, they said they would pull down the Papua New Guinea flag and replace the national anthem with their own. They said they had also resolved to remove Wingti's picture from all government offices and replace them with their own portraits.

Wingti dismissed the threats with a statement that he had been expecting them for some time.

Asserting that the premiers' opinion was not representative of the 590,000 island people who make up about one-sixth of the total population, Wingti declared:

"The government has little doubt that the majority of the people of PNG support abolition (of provincial governments)."

Defense Minsiter To Visit Bougainville

BK2310054592 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 23 Oct 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea's defense minister, Paul Toihan, is expected to visit Bougainville tomorrow for a briefing on the military's latest advance on rebel strongholds. He is scheduled to visit the island's capital, Arawa, with the defense force commander, Brigadier General Rochas Lokinap. Mr. Toihan will be the first high-ranking official to visit Arawa since government troops withdrew from Bougainville in March 1990.

More than 70 heavily armed government troops have set up a base at the Tuvuru Catholic Mission, just three kilometers north of Arawa—a stronghold of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA].

The BRA spokesman, Martin Miriori, said most of Arawa's residents have either been evacuated to surrounding villages or fled into the nearby mountains. He said they are afraid of being caught up in a battle between the BRA and government troops. Mr. Miriori said the situation is very tense with both sides preparing for the ultimate battle.

Yesterday, Mr. Toihan said it was only a matter of time before the government troops regained control of Bougainville. He also said they would only advance on an area if they have local support.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby office said Mr. Toihan's visit to Bougainville is expected to conclude on Sunday with a statement about the situation on the island.